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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think the House minority bloc will eventually have the numbers to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Mitt Romney swept to the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday night at a storm-delayed national convention scripted to propel him into a close race for the White House in tough economic times.

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FOCUS

In the upscale business district of Manila, a midweek crowd spills out into the street. The New York-themed Borough restaurant is pulsating to the beat of a Bon Jovi song, while young, hip Filipinos take shots of tequila from a passing tray and sing in unison.

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NMI Medicaid underutilized $35.6M in federal funds. PAGE 3

Senate OKs Social Security, pension reform bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

During a nine-hour session that lasted past 8pm, the Senate passed yesterday a milestone bill expressing the CNMI's desire to transfer active government employees to the U.S. Social Security program and another bill that reforms the government's now troubled pension system.

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate passed House Bill 17-312 or the Social Security bill, to the relief of active government employees that crowded the Senate gallery from late morning to evening. Only Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) was absent during the session.

The bill now goes to the governor for action.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos has been calling on the Legislature to act favorably on this bill, with only a few weeks to go before the desired transition of Oct. 1 or the first payroll in October.

Most of those who testified on HB

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart, right, gestures as she addresses senators about NMC's budget while Board of Regents' Frank Rabauliman and Malua Peter look on during a record nine-hour Senate session yesterday. At past 8pm, the Senate passed a fiscal year 2013 budget bill that the House leadership is poised to reject so that a conference committee will be formed to work on a "compromise" version, barely a month before the start of a new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Senate passes $114M budget with increased funding for PSS, others

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At past 8pm last night, the Senate passed a $114-million fiscal year 2013 budget bill with major amendments that include increased funding for the Public School System and other agencies compared to those given by the House of Representatives, but senators later couldn't recall whether the version they passed merged the departments of Commerce and Labor. Senators said they had at least three versions marked "SS1" or Senate Substitute 1 throughout the nine-hour session.

The House leadership is poised to reject the Senate-amended budget bill and go into a conference committee to come up with a compromise package.

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Buckingham questions FBI agent's authority to serve summons

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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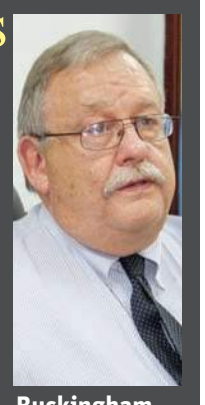
REPORTER

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham has questioned the authority of FBI special agent Haejun Park to serve summons issued by the Superior Court.

Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas, new counsel for Buckingham, raised the FBI agent's authority issue in the former AG's reply to the Office of Public Auditor's opposition to his motion to quash the bench warrant issued for his arrest.

See SUMMONS on Page 4



Buckingham

More details on joint US, Japan military training on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian will host a small fraction of the estimated 2,200 U.S. Marines and sailors that will be taking part in a military exercise in Guam and the CNMI in September, made historic by the participation of dozens of Japanese troops almost 70 years since forces from the two countries engaged in heavy battles against each other on the same soil.

This will be the first joint exercises on Tinian by the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force and the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Tinian, one of the main islands in the CNMI, was the launching pad of the two atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, putting a decisive end to World War II.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force troops earlier announced that some 40 GSDF Western Army troops armed with rifles will join the III Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Okinawa Prefecture, southern Japan.

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Local

IN LAWSUIT TO STOP FITIAL FROM PURSUING $190M POWER DEAL

Wiseman gives Inos more time to comply with lawmaker's subpoena

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

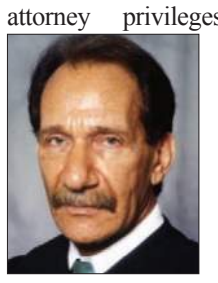
Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday allowed acting governor Eloy S. Inos to have more time to respond to a subpoena filed by Rep. Janet U. Maratita that ordered Inos to produce documents related to the alleged $190-million power purchase agreement.

Given the information requested, Wiseman found unreasonable the one day provided to Inos to comply with the subpoena.

Wiseman modified the subpoena to extend the compliance date to Sept. 5, 2012 at 3pm.

The judge said the counsel for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial/Inos should be prepared to discuss any asserted privileges related to the requested documents at the preliminary injunction hearing on Aug. 30, 2012 at 1:30pm.

Maratita's counsel, attorney Ramon Quichocho, personally served the subpoena on Inos last Tuesday at 12:26pm.


Wiseman

The subpoena commands Inos to produce documents related to the alleged power purchase agreement between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Saipan Development LLC.

The subpoena orders production of seven potential categories of documentation by yesterday at 3pm.

On Tuesday late afternoon, Inos, through the Office of the Attorney General, filed a motion to quash or modify subpoena, arguing that there was insufficient time to respond to the request and that various privileges may apply.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay said some or much of the information requested may be confidential and subject to various privileges under the law, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product privilege, preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, and intra-agency memoranda.

Lochabay said there is wholly insufficient time to collect, review, and redact, if necessary, these documents prior to 3pm yesterday.

"This court is fully empowered to stop this abuse of the subpoena process and should do so," Lochabay said.

The government lawyer asked the court to quash the subpoena or modify it to allow Inos sufficient time to review the documents.

Last Aug. 21, Wiseman issued a temporary restraining order that prohibits Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing the 25-year power purchase agreement.

In granting Maratita's motion for TRO, Wiseman ordered Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC to show cause why a preliminary injunction against them, restraining the same activities, should not be issued.

Wiseman set the hearing on the lawmaker's motion for preliminary injunction for today, Thursday, at 1:30pm.

Maratita filed a taxpayer's lawsuit against Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC over the signing of the power purchase agreement on Aug. 3, 2012.

The lawmaker is suing Fitial, Buckingham, and CUC for taxpayer's right of action: illegal expenditure of public funds and breach of fiduciary duty.

Maratita asked the court to declare that the power purchase agreement is "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore cancelled."

Per the power purchase agreement, on March 27, 2012, Saipan Development LLC, and the CNMI executed a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement by which Saipan Development was granted the exclusive right to develop a diesel generated electric power plant on Saipan.

Quichocho described Saipan Development LLC as a "mysterious company" that is incorporated in the State of Delaware on March 22, 2012.

CASH FOR TRASH
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce kicked off its rejuvenated SCC Cash for Trash Program by awarding $200 to the MP United Football Club for cleaning beach areas from south of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to the ABC Shopping Center in Garapan. The club hauled 320 lbs of plastic bottles, broken glass, old tires, empty beverage containers, bags of trash left behind by others, metal BBQ grills, plastic pails, empty alcohol containers, shoes, rebar, metal air conditioning parts, and PVC pipes during the cleanup. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tasi Tours asks Camacho to reconsider bond ruling; seeks clarification

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. yesterday filed a motion asking the Superior Court to reconsider its ruling that allowed five marine sports operators to post $60,172.95 in unsecured bond on top of the $1,861.05 cash that they had already posted as bond requirement in connection with their lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands over its rule on Managaha access.

Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, also requested clarification of associate judge Joseph N. Camacho's Aug. 22, 2012 order regarding bond for preliminary injunction.

Kosack said Camacho issued a preliminary injunction without giving the security for the payment of all the damages that might be suffered by Tasi Tours—contrary to Rule 65(c) of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

The lawyer said clearly, the giving of merely a promise to pay is the antithesis of giving "security."

"Should Tasi Tours be found to have been wrongfully enjoined, rather than being able to resort to security to be made whole, 97 percent of its damages would be covered by nothing but promises to pay, which are worthless. This is clear error," he said.

A signed acknowledgment, Kosack pointed out, is not security.

On the request for clarification, Kosack said what they understand with the injunction order is that it permits the five marine sports operators (and other duly permitted marine sports operators) to drop off and pick up "their customers" at Managaha Island.

Kosack said it is their understanding that this is what the five marine sports operators sought at the temporary restraining order hearing—to be able to bring "their customers" as part of their package tours to Managaha and then take those customers on Managaha to Managaha tours, or to take those customers on tours on the way from Managaha back to Saipan.

"What is unclear, however, is whether they may pick up customers who were brought to Managaha by another tour company and then take them on Managaha to Managaha tours or Managaha to Saipan tours," he said.

Last Aug. 23, the five marine sports operators resumed their business operations after complying with Camacho's bond requirement order.

The operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—signed an acknowledgment of their responsibility for the unsecured amount.

The operators each promised to be bound unto defendants DPL and Tasi Tours & Transportation, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $12,034.59 in the event defendants are found to have been wrongfully enjoined and are able to prove in the lawsuit actual damages in such an amount.

The preliminary injunction that Camacho issued last July 19 granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

The operators are suing DPL to invalidate the department's "rule" promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011 and June 14, 2012 pertaining to Managaha access.

The subject "rule" prohibits marine sports operators from picking up customers on Managaha Island for their tours unless they are Tasi Tours or its subcontractors.

Visitor arrivals up 25 percent in June 2012

June 2012 visitor arrivals to the CNMI were up 25 percent compared to June 2011, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The tourism body said arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 29,402 visitors in June compared to 23,604 in June 2011.Overall, visitor arrivals are up 14 percent so far this fiscal year to 286,300 visitors.

Arrivals from Japan reached 9,051 visitors in June, 5 percent higher than June last year, as the Japan market continues to stabilize Limited airlift continues to be the key barrier to increasing arrivals out of the Japan market. Delta Air Lines, however, launched an additional four weekly flights from Narita on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday beginning on July 14 and continuing through Sept. 24. Asiana Airlines began operating daily flights from Osaka on July 16 and continuing through Sept. 3. These additional flights are expected to significantly boost the number of Japanese visitors to the Northern Marianas during the peak summer season versus last year.

Arrivals from Korea posted a fifth consecutive month of double-digit increases, leaping 47 percent to 10,369 visitors. Asiana Airlines re-launched a second weekly service from Busan to Saipan on June 13 which had been suspended since June of last year due to lack of available aircraft. Meanwhile, eight charters from Incheon to Saipan operated in August 2012 using an Airbus 321 with 171 seats.

Arrivals from China have shown consistent growth each month this year compared to last year, jumping 50 percent to 6,814 visitors in June. So far this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received 83 percent more visitors from China as the same period last year due to additional flights, which include six weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou. Continuous significant growth in Chinese arrivals is projected through October thanks to China's summer and National Day holidays, as well as major media and travel agent promotions launched by the MVA's new China office.

Meanwhile, arrivals were also up 15 percent from Russia to 639 in June. Arrivals from Russia have increased 15 percent so far this fiscal year, compared to last.

Arrivals were also up in June from the United States (up 16 percent to 666), Guam (up 2 percent to 1,388), the Philippines (up 22 percent to 55), and Other Areas (up 71 percent to 371).

Arrivals from Hong Kong were down 92 percent to 49 visitors.

Japan and Korea economic highlights

According to the Japan Cabinet Office's monthly economic report, Japan remains on a path to moderate recovery. In May 2012, the yen slightly weakened against the U.S. dollar, closing the month at 79.53 yen. The Japan National Tourism Organization announced that a preliminary total of 1,414,000 Japanese traveled overseas in May, marking the fourth straight month of historical record highs.

The Korean economy is showing signs of slight improvement after the downward trend observed in the previous month, but external uncertainties arising from the fiscal crisis in Europe still remain. Korea's population hit the landmark figure of 50 million, according to Statistics Korea. The population increase is significant in that Korea became the seventh country with a population of over 50 million. The won/dollar exchange rate fell 20.98 from previous month to finish at 1,156.74. According to the Korea Tourism Organization, the number of Korean outbound travelers in May was 1,096,950, an increase of 8.1 precent compared to the same month in 2011. ***(MVA)***

FOR FISCAL YEARS 2011, 2012

NMI Medicaid underutilized $35.6M in federal funds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The federal government made available $35.6 million for reimbursement to the local Medicaid program for fiscal years 2011 and 2012, according to CNMI Medicaid Program administrator Helen Sablan.

However this federal aid, she said, was underutilized as a result of lack of matching local funding.

Records from Sablan indicated that for fiscal year 2011, there were a total of $16.8 million in federal funds allocated for the Medicaid program.

These include medical assistance payment ($6.4 million); administration and training ($127,000); enhanced allotment plan ($101,376); Medicaid MAP-ARRA ($398,250); Medicaid MAP-ARRA ($796,500); enhanced allotment plan-ARRA ($7,603); enhanced allotment plan-ARRA ($15,207); CHIP ($861,110); and Medicaid MAP-ARRA ($8.1 million).

Compared to the FY 2011 budget for Medicaid from the local government, the CNMI had only $6 million. It was comprised of Medicaid reimbursement ($5.5 million); Medicaid agency ($84,133); and CNMI Children's Health Insurance Program ($367,233).

For the current fiscal year 2012, records show that there are $18.7 million federal monies made available for the Medicaid program. The amount is comprised of medical assistance payment ($5.1 million); administration and training ($216,000); enhanced allotment plan ($107,740); CHIP ($898,682); HIT ($376,000); and Medicaid MAP-ARRA ($11.9 million).

Compared to the local matching funds, only a total of $2.7 million was budgeted by the local government. This is for Medicaid reimbursement ($2.4 million); and for Medicaid agency ($330,735).

"We have all this federal funds [before us] however the local budget from the central government is so little for the matching. So in actuality, we're pretty much under-funded," said Sablan during her presentation to the members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. last Thursday.

The Medicaid Program is state/federal program designed to help low income citizens. In order for the CNMI to drawdown higher reimbursement every year, it has to come up with a higher budget because the program has a 45-55 percent matching requirement.

With the anticipated approval of the "certified public expenditure" methodology, the CNMI is projecting a higher reimbursement for the Medicaid program following identification of additional monies to be used as local match with the federal side.

40 laptops or tablets for lawmakers, LB staffers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Legislative Bureau is seeking bids for the purchase of either 40 laptops or 40 tablet computers, for the use of the 29 lawmakers as well as LB staffers mostly during Senate and House of Representatives sessions.

LB director Melchor Mendiola, in a brief interview yesterday, said the bureau is gearing toward "paperless sessions" so they are investing in laptops or tablets.

"We are still looking at whether it's going to be laptops or tablets that's why there are two invitations to bid that were published. We have been generating a lot of paper every session, and so we considered laptops or tablets," Mendiola told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said funding for the laptops or tablets will be taken from the LB's current budget.

Mendiola said the laptops or computers that will be bought are the property of the LB, and not of the individual lawmakers and staffers. He said this means if a lawmaker seeks reelection and loses in the Nov. 6 election, he cannot take with him the laptop or tablet assigned to him by the LB.

Of the 40 laptops or tablets that will be bought, 20 will be for House members, nine for senators, two for the House and Senate clerks, at least three for the legal counsels, and the rest will be "backup" equipment, Mendiola added.

The LB also gave retroactive salary increases of $2,800 to $8,000 per annum to eight LB staffers last month, something that acting governor Eloy S. Inos earlier said is "surprising" and "interesting." The salary increases are effective Jan. 1, 2012.

Included in the eight is an administrative assistant whose $20,208.64 annual salary took effect July 16, but the appointment date is Sept. 30, 2012.

Arctic Circle loan proposal 'totally inactive'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The loan proposal of Arctic Circle Air is "totally inactive" and may take time to get action from the board of the Marianas Public Land Trust, according to MPLT chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero.

"It's totally inactive because we have requested many information and they've been sitting on them. No follow-ups were even made, too," Deleon Guerrero said.

During a recent meeting of the Commonwealth Development Authority board, Arctic Circle (doing business as Marianas Harvest) owner Anthony Pellegrino told *Saipan Tribune* that that the company's loan proposal to MPLT is considered a "dead issue" for now. He did not elaborate when asked to explain.

Arctic Circle Air aims to revive the CNMI's agriculture industry by packaging produce from local farmers so that farmers will just have to provide the goods that will be packed, labeled, and sold in Guam.

MPLT earlier approved a $500,000-loan to the company which was rejected by Arctic Circle Air. It later approached the board of trustees requesting MPLT to invest $235,000 in the business.

This "investment request" was turned down by the MPLT board and it was converted to a $235,000-loan proposal from the company. This issue is now at the board's table which review was put on hold.

The MPLT board earlier decided to hold off making any decision on the loan proposal due to lack of representatives from Saipan.

Early this month, Pellegrino told *Saipan Tribune* that the business plan will soon push through and that the company is just awaiting the arrival of its aircraft.

He said CDA, along with 55 other local investors, came together to make this business a reality for the CNMI.

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TRAINING

From Page 1

The joint exercises are part of cooperation between the Japanese GSDF and the U.S. military in countering the rise of China in the Asia-Pacific region, and help improve defense capabilities on remote islands.

Yesterday, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit released additional information about the certification exercise on Tinian, Guam, and Saipan from Sept. 10 to 25, at the beginning of the MEU's Fall Patrol 2012.

It said the III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group's Special Operations Training Group will verify the MEU's ability to conduct all mission essential tasks.

"During this particular CERTEX (certification exercise), a platoon-sized element of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers will train alongside the MEU's approximately 2,200 Marines and sailors to develop greater interoperability of forces and to enhance the security of Japan in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, signed Jan. 19, 1960," the 31st MEU said in a statement.

Don Farrell, a CNMI historian, said only a small fraction of the troops participating in the exercises would be coming to Tinian.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) said this upcoming training on Tinian is "historic" not only for the CNMI but for the U.S. and Japan as well.

"Tinian was a site of battle between the two forces during the war, and Tinian was where the two atomic bombs were launched. Now we see the role of Tinian again in the military but this time the forces are joining together. And after some 30 years since the Covenant negotiations, Tinian is seeing promised military activities to help the local economy," San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

San Nicolas said he hopes that just like the Marines exercise in May, local vendors will again be given a chance to sell products to the visiting troops to help boost the local businesses.

Japanese forces' participation in this exercise follows the April U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee, also known as the 2+2 statement calling for more bilateral security and defense cooperation, strengthening interoperability between U.S. forces and Japan Self-Defense Forces, and shared use of training ranges and facilities in Guam.

During the CERTEX, Japanese soldiers will train with the MEU's Marines and sailors during certain previously-coordinated aspects of the 31st MEU certification exercise, including securing and guarding an airfield, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and noncombatant evacuation operations, which is also called transportation of Japanese nationals overseas.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz earlier announced that portions of Tinian's military areas will be closed from Sept. 10 to 22 because of live fire military exercises.

Another MAG-12 exercise

Next month's training exercises on Tinian follows Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 in May, the largest military exercise the CNMI had seen in years involving some 200 U.S. military personnel led by Marine Aircraft Group-12 out of Iwakuni, Japan.

Yesterday, the Tinian Mayor's Office announced another round of MAG-12 exercises in November to December.

Farrell said officials from MAG-12 and Marine Forces Pacific from both Hawaii and California briefed the Tinian mayor and members of his cabinet on MAG-12's next mission on Tinian.

"According to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Frederick, executive officer, Marine Air Group-12, they will be exercising on North Field from Nov. 29 to about Dec. 12. North Field will not be closed during their exercise. And, once again, they will conduct community relations programs, including medical and dental services for the people of Tinian," Farrell said.

He said once again, MAG-12 is arriving with a "Buy Local" policy.

Dela Cruz commended MAG-12's Frederick on their last mission and challenged them to get even closer to the people in December.

"I think a softball game is in order before you leave," the mayor said in a statement.

Farrell said the primary objective of this MAG-12 exercise will be to grub and clean Runway Able at North Field, just as they did with Runway Baker this May.

This clearing has already been approved by the Historic Preservation Office and other CNMI regulatory agencies, he added.

Farrell said depending on the availability of equipment, and receiving proper clearance from CNMI regulatory agencies, MAG-12 engineers will also move forward with grubbing and cleaning of Runways Charlie and Delta, as well as the connecting roads.

"It will be remembered that there were some problems with the high-speed vessel that carried the men and equipment of MAG-12 to Tinian in May. This problem is being addressed by Mr. Chris Neff, Senior Operations Force Program Analyst Exercise Planner for the United States Marine Corps Forces Pacific. The plan that he has tagged as Forager Orange-2012, envisions utilizing one of the Maritime Prepositioning Ships now stationed on Saipan to provide all the equipment MAG-12 might need," Farrell said.

He said Neff, demonstrating the "can do" attitude of the U.S. Marine Corps, told the Tinian mayor, "They are there. They have the equipment on board. Let's put it to use."

Following the briefing, Frederick, Neff, and their team of advisors visited both North Field and Tinian Harbor to scout out their game plan for December.

"After viewing the harbor, Mr. Neff and Lt. Col. Frederick agreed that landing the equipment from a Maritime Prepositioning Ship is feasible. This would be another first for Tinian and the U.S. Marine Corps," Farrell added.

BUDGET

From Page 1

If the House and Senate fail to pass a compromise budget bill that will be signed into law before Oct. 1, then there will be another government shutdown until a new budget is in place.

House Bill 17-313, House Draft 10, Senate Substitute 1 passed by a vote of 8-0.

Only Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) was absent from the session, which started shortly before 11am and didn't finish until past 8pm.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) told *Saipan Tribun*e last night that the Senate is ready to work with the House once a conference committee is formed.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) worked on the budget bill for about a month, recommending amendments that the full Senate approved.

Senators gave the Public School System what it asked for—$33 million for FY 2013—compared to $28 million that the House gave.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan and other education officials, who all testified on the budget bill in the Senate chamber, thanked senators for prioritizing education. PSS and the Board of Education also asked senators to maintain this funding level as they work with their House counterparts on a compromise bill.

Senators said Northern Marianas College gets over $5.9 million, an improvement from the House's $5.7 million but still much lower than NMC's budget request of $8 million for FY 2013.

NMC president Sharon Hart and Board of Regents' Frank Rabauliman and Malua Peters, who also testified in the Senate chamber, expressed hope that a compromise budget will give more to the college.

Some senators said the increases in PSS and NMC budgets were taken from a lot of programs and agencies including from the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch's budget is down to $30.58 million, from the House version of $31.6 million.

The Senate slightly increased the Judiciary's budget, from the House's $3.8 million to $3.94 million.

Senators also slightly reduced the House's budget for the Legislative Bureau, from $1.6 million to $1.3 million. The Legislature's total budget is $5.178 million, down from the House proposal of $5.408 million.

The Senate boosted Medicaid reimbursement funds to more than $3 million, much more than the House's proposal of $1.4 million.

The Senate increased Rota's budget to $4.88 million, from the House's proposal of $4.56 million.

Tinian's budget went up to $5 million, compared to the House's proposal of $4.56 million.

Saipan and Northern Islands' total budget went up to $1.7 million versus the House version of $1.56 million.

The Marianas Visitors' Authority remained the same, at $1.575 million.

Senators also gave Rota and Saipan $300,000 each for retroactive salary payments.

The Senate-amended budget bill also sets the Finance secretary's salary at $60,000 for FY 2013, and transfers three employees from the Office on Aging to the Municipality of Tinian's Office on Aging.

The government's revised projected revenue available for appropriation in FY 2013 is $114 million, back to the level of some 20 years ago.

SUMMONS

From Page 1

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman conducted a hearing yesterday on the motion to quash the $50,000 bench warrant that he issued when Buckingham failed to attend the hearing on Aug. 6.

Wiseman placed the motion to quash under advisement and stated he will issue a written ruling this week.

OPA counsel George Hasselback, who is in the U.S. mainland, appeared telephonically at the hearing. He requested the court to give him more time to reply to the new issues that Buckingham has raised.

Nicholas said there is no CNMI law authorizing Park in his capacity as an FBI agent to serve summons issued by the Superior Court.

Sers Nicholas said while it can be safely stated that agent Park is a "person who is not a party" in this case and that he is "at least 18 years of age," the service of process he caused in this case was still legally improper.

The lawyer pointed out that it is undisputed that the service occurred at the departure lounge within the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

He noted that the departure area is not accessible to the general public and that it is only accessible to those who are departing the CNMI or to those who are "legally authorized" to be within the airport.

"Equally important is the fact that, for one to be able to access the departure lounge, one has to clear through TSA security checkpoint at the airport," Sers Nicholas said.

The lawyer said there is no question that Park served the summons in this case not in his personal capacity but in his capacity as an FBI agent.

Sers Nicholas said Park was not departing the CNMI at the time he entered the departure lounge to serve Buckingham.

"The only unavoidable conclusion is that he was able to clear TSA security and thereby entered the departure lounge in his official capacity as an FBI agent, not as Mr. Park," he said.

Therefore, Sers Nicholas said, the purported service of process of the initial summons and the initial information on Buckingham by Park was legally improper and deficient.

The lawyer also argued that the Superior Court lacks personal jurisdiction over Buckingham because OPA has failed to affect valid service of process of the amended information on him.

Sers Nicholas said OPA, by its own admission, has failed unilaterally to properly serve Buckingham with the amended information in this case.

The amended information, he said, is the only lawful charging document before the court.

The lawyer said OPA's failure to serve the amended information as required by law renders the court is not being able to act as it lacks personal jurisdiction over Buckingham.

"Accordingly, this honorable court must put an end to this miscarriage of justice by OPA as against Buckingham and dismiss this case.

On the fugitive issue, Sers Nicholas said the court obtained personal jurisdiction over Buckingham based on the purported service of the initial summons upon him by Park.

"The service of the initial summons on Buckingham by agent Park was legally improper and therefore invalid as a matter of law," he added.

Hasselback argued that considering that Buckingham was already served with the summons and he did not appear in court he is now a fugitive.

Hasselback said Buckingham lacks standing to move to quash the bench warrant because he failed to recognize the court's jurisdiction.

The OPA counsel said the former AG needs to come back to Saipan and clear this fugitive status.

Buckingham recently filed in court under seal his voluminous medical records.

The medical records said to be consisting of over 80 pages are filed in support of Buckingham's motion to quash the $50,000 bench warrant issued for his arrest.

Park reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan last Aug. 4.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

SENATE

From Page 1

17-312 and HB 17-315 House Draft 1 urged senators to pass both bills.

"Your prompt passage of the bill will give a strong signal to the U.S. federal government that employees of the CNMI government are ready to join and wanted to start making payments into the U.S. Social Security System," said Joseph M. Pangelinan, one of the leaders of active government employees.

Senators, however, spent several hours discussing and hearing from the public their concerns about HB 17-315, HD1.

The Senate passed the bill with one amendment, to add Subsection 202 (c) to read, "Employees electing to withdraw their Defined Benefit Plan contributions may roll over their contributions to the Defined Contribution Plan."

At past 6:30pm, the Senate passed the latest version of HB 17-315 or the pension reform bill by a vote of 7-0 with one abstention from Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Active government employees, including Pangelinan, said HB 17-315 "is the best solution being offered to relieve the CNMI government from the ever-increasing unfunded liabilities faced by the NMI Retirement Fund."

Pangelinan said the bill allows active members to decide whether to refund their contributions without being penalized, continue working, and transition into the U.S. Social Security system, or remain with the NMI Retirement Fund in hopes that the pension program improves as it receives additional funding from the central government.

"In addition, we will be getting back 25 percent of our contributions after deciding to withdraw within 30 days and the remaining 75 percent will be disbursed to us within 90 days thereafter. We realized that the pensions from the U.S. Social Security may not be as generous as that of the NMI Retirement (Fund), but in the long run, we will feel a lot more secure when we decide to retire at age 62," Pangelinan added.

The Fitial administration wants to transition government employees to the U.S. Social Security program and place the NMI Retirement Fund under the Department of Finance mostly to disburse pensions for current retirees, as part of the plan to address mounting concerns about the troubled public pension agency. Fitial placed the NMI Retirement Fund under a state of emergency.

Attempted murder, other charge vs Guiao dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Carmelita Guiao, a woman on jury trial for allegedly running over with a car her former common-law husband, is now off the hook from the most serious charges filed against her.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos yesterday dismissed the charges of attempted murder and aggravated assault and battery.

Inos dismissed the charges after assistant public defenders Matthew Meyers and Daniel Guidotto moved for a judgment of acquittal shortly after the prosecution rested its case.

Inos basically determined that there is insufficient evidence for any rational jury to convict Guiao as to the charges of attempted murder and aggravated assault and battery.

With the dismissal, only the assault with a dangerous weapon charge will be for the jury to decide. Inos will decide the misdemeanor charges.

The prosecution rested its case after presenting its last witness—Police Officer Jason Tarkong.

Before Tarkong, Police Officer Adrian Mendiola testified, among other things, that there was acceleration marks on the road, but Guiao's car had no dent.

Mendiola agreed with Meyers during cross examination that it is also possible that the alleged victim was already lying on the ground when the car ran him over.

Mendiola said the alleged victim admitted he was drunk late that night.

The alleged victim on Tuesday testified that he thought it was an accident and that Guiao was only trying to scare him.

Asked why he thought it was an accident, the alleged victim said Guiao was drunk at the time and the road was downhill or sloping.

Police said the hit-and-run incident occurred in Upper Miha, Garapan in the early morning of March 11, 2012.

Police said investigation showed that Guiao chased her common-law husband and struck him with her car by running him over. She then allegedly fled the scene.

The alleged victim suffered multiple injuries to the body and legs.

Closing arguments will be today, Thursday. The trial began on Monday.

Assistant attorneys general Shelli Neal, James McAllister, and Margo Brown are representing the government.

FOOD ABUSE CLARISSA V. DAVID
Public Health medical director Dr. Dan Lamar said that people's use of food is the "biggest cause" of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cancer, and heart diseases during a presentation at the Rotary Club of Saipan's meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Insurance companies weigh in CHC rate hike

» HMOs to take stand on other health reforms

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Top officials and representatives of the islands' health insurance industry will discuss the Commonwealth Health Center's proposed rate increases in today's meeting of the NMI Chapter of Society for Human Resource Management.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has approved an emergency regulation that significantly increased various hospital fees and charges. The new rates are expected to take effect 120 days after it is published in the Commonwealth Register.

According to Esther Muna, the governor's special adviser on Medicaid who also helped the corporation in developing a new master charge, the corporation will now be charging about 300 percent the relatively value unit (RVU) rate on most services.

Muna explained to *Saipan Tribune* that the RVU rate "takes the weight of procedures and services, the work value, practice value, geographical factor, and the inflation factor into the pricing and multiply it by 300 percent while also making it comparable to other areas such as Guam and Hawaii."

For example, from the existing rate of $303.75 per day for a semi-private room, the proposed new charge is $1,090 per day based on the emergency regulation.

A moderate complexity visit in the emergency room which is $189.30 at present will also significantly be increased to $339. An excision of tumor, soft tissue of face or scalp, subcutaneous, 2cm or greater currently costs $590. The new rate is $1,180.

Staywell Insurance Saipan branch manager Eric Plinske yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that the company's actuary team in Guam will review the proposed rate increases and once it finds unreasonable charges, the company for sure will try to talk and negotiate with corporation officials.

Plinske said he was not surprised upon learning the rate increase on hospital fees citing this idea has been on the corporation's table for a while. But as far as the specific services and amounts to be assigned, he has no full knowledge at this time.

Plinske described today's gathering of insurance top officials as both timely and rare. He expects that other insurance companies will share their ideas and thoughts about the new rates and other health issues.

Calvo's Insurance Underwriters' manager Eli Buenaventura, meantime, declined to give any comment yesterday, but he admitted that its main office has been informed about the proposed emergency regulation at CHC.

Buenaventura said the company's plan administrator, Frank Campillo, will be on island today to take part in the panel discussion.

Besides Campillo, NetCare Insurance plan administrator Jerry Crisostomo, Staywell's Francis Santos, and TakeCare's Timothy Ogata will also be on island for the same event.

They will also speak about how the recent Supreme Court ruling on the individual mandate under the Health Care Reform Act affects the CNMI, will discuss updates to the current timeline for the Health Care Reform Act, insurance market reform provisions, including essential benefits; update how this affects Medicaid; health insurance exchanges; individual and Employer mandates; and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and how it affects medical loss ratios.

Atalig allowed to post $2.5K cash bail

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday allowed suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig to post $2,500 cash bail for his temporary liberty.

Wiseman ordered Atalig to post $1,250 cash on the day of his release and $1,250 cash 30 days later.

The judge required Atalig to post $22,500 in unsecured bond.

Wiseman found Atalig's sister, Anette, and her husband David M. Calvo, suitable to serve as third party custodians.

The defendant, however, is required to stay on Rota and will return to Saipan only during court hearings.

The next hearing will be a status conference on Sept. 19, 2012 at 9am.

Atalig is prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages.

Atalig, 55, is facing charges for allegedly assaulting his two minor children and threatening to kill them and their mother.

Atalig pleaded not guilty to an amended information charging him with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of child abuse, one count of assault and battery, three counts of assault, and three counts of disturbing the peace.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Atalig.

Police arrested the suspended lawyer last July 29 shortly after the incident that happened at his residence in Papago.

In May 2012, Wiseman suspended Atalig and attorney Reynaldo O. Yana from practicing law in the CNMI for refusing to return $1.1 million in attorneys' fees that the two obtained from the Angel Malite estate. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Phone: 323-4260/61 • Fax: 323-4263 | Email: elplinske@staywellguam.com
FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

PSS passes BEH inspections, opening set next week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

All public schools will open classes as scheduled next week after they passed the health and sanitary inspections conducted by the Bureau of Environmental Health.

BEH director John Tagabuel and agency inspector Lily Kapileo told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that inspection results indicated that facilities in all campuses are safe for schoolchildren. Although there may be some follow-ups in certain schools, this will not hinder the opening of classes on Sept. 4.

According to Tagabuel, BEH inspection has two components. One is for the facility check solely conducted by the agency's inspectors and the other one is the testing for school water which is jointly conducted with the Division of Environmental Quality.

Sablan

Kapileo said results for the water testing was just recently received this week, while facility inspection has been completed early this month. She emphasized that regular inspection on schools is needed because children need a clean, healthy, and safe environment to learn. Also included in the inspected facilities by BEH are the PSS Head Start centers.

During last week's Board of Education meeting, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan reported that all 19 schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota including its 10 Head Start centers are ready for the new school year.

Classroom teachers and school personnel, she said, had started reporting for work on Aug. 27.

She said during the summer, school leaders and administrators went through a rigorous two-week leadership training to equip them with the tools and knowledge needed for effective teaching and leadership.

Despite the limited budget and resources for school operation, the COE reported that so far only Kagman Elementary School will implement a double session this new school year because of the school's high students-to-teacher ratio in the fifth and sixth grades.

Saipan Tribune learned that for some years, Kagman Elementary School accommodated students up to fifth grade only, while its neighboring school, Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, accommodated students from sixth to eighth grades.

But starting last school year, Kagman Elementary School started bringing anew its sixth graders to accommodate more middle school students at Chacha Oceanview.

The high ratio of students to teachers noted at public schools this year is attributed to the schools' lack of teachers because hiring of teachers was adversely impacted by the limited funds of PSS.

TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP 2012

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In support of the Guam Department of Education's "Team UP to Clean UP 2012," several accounting staff from the University of Guam Comptroller's Office volunteered to paint and water blast at Benavente Middle School in Dededo last Saturday, Aug. 18. From left, Rose Abomales, Zeny Nace, Noeme Jereza, Bobbie Molarte, Esper Carlos, Ermie So, Gloria Travis, Juliet Galeno, and Leah Aquino. Not in photo is Josie Muescan.

DPS *issues back-to-school safety tips*

"Think Safe, Ride Safe, Be Safe!" is a new child transportation safety campaign from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Traffic incidents continue to be a leading cause of injury and death for children. Research show the key to traffic safety is education. Understanding that young children learn best when engaged, here are some back-to-school safety tips from DPS on four main areas: pedestrian, bus, bike, and car seat safety.

Ride in the car safely

- Always ride in the back seat.
- Always ride in your car seat.
- Sit still while an adult buckles you in your car seat.
- Stay in your seat until an adult unfastens your strap.
- Tell an adult if YOU are unbuckled.
- Tell adults if THEY are unbuckled.

Even safer than riding in your own vehicle, riding on a school bus is the safest way for your child to travel to and from school. The greatest risk is not riding the school bus, but approaching or leaving it, so children need to be especially careful around the school bus "danger zone," which is the 10 feet in front, behind and on each side of the school bus.

Getting on

- Walk with an adult to the school bus stop.
- Wait five giant steps away from the road.
- Wait until the school bus driver says it is safe to get on.

On the school bus

- Go straight to your seat.
- Sit facing the front of the school bus.
- Do what the school bus driver tells you.

Getting off

- Look out for cars before getting off the school bus.
- When you're off, take five giant steps from the school bus.
- Look left-right-left to make sure no cars are coming.
- Wait for the driver to signal it is safe to cross.

Most young children who are hit by motor vehicles are injured near their home or on neighborhood streets. Learn why they're so vulnerable.

Crossing the street

- Stop at the edge of the street.
- Look left-right-left for cars.
- Don't cross if a car is coming.
- Use a crosswalk if you can.
- Keep looking for cars as you cross.
- Hold an adult's hand when walking.
- Walk on the sidewalk.
- If there's no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- No pushing or shoving when you walk.

It is fun and good exercise to ride a bike. However, there are important rules for keeping children safe. Their best protection is to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet, and have a good grasp of traffic safety rules.

When riding a bike

- Always wear your helmet. Make sure to buckle your chin strap.
- Ride only with an adult.
- Don't ride in the street.
- Ride on bike paths, in parks, or on the sidewalk.

In anticipation of the busy days of back-to-school activities, Traffic and Highway patrol officers will be conducting high visibility enforcement, saturation patrols, and laser (speed detection) enforcement on our roadways to include all private and public school zones.

For more information, contact Sgt. Thomas Blas, Traffic Section, at 664-9022. ***(DPS)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Robbery at Susupe residence

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on a robbery incident that occurred at a residence in Susupe Village.

Last Sunday, Aug. 26, at about 5pm police responded to the home invasion. The victim, a 14-year-old local male, was at home doing his homework on the kitchen table. The suspect described as a local male, about 5'9" tall, slim build, wearing a ski mask, camouflage long sleeve jacket, camouflage long pants, and black shoes entered the home through the front screen door which was unlocked.

The suspect armed with a machete, demanded the victim to give him everything he had. The victim handed over his black Public School System-issued Dell laptop computer along with a pair of small speakers. The suspect forced the victim into the parents' bedroom at knife point were the victim was told to open and search dresser drawers for valuables. Unable to discover anything of value, the suspect grabbed a white Estee Lauder bag with green floral print containing makeup and fled on foot with the stolen items.

The Department of Public Safety and NMI Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(NMI Crime Stoppers)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy second birthday to our Chibi Aguas, Hulk Tyvin B. Ada, who's celebrating his humongous day today. A year has gone by so fast and left your trails of cherished moments forever. A new year has come again for you to make memories that'll last a lifetime. We love you baby. Greetings from Dad, Mom, and the rest of the Aguas and Chaketa familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy advanced birthday to Hazel "Jhe" Taitano who's going to celebrate her special day on Friday. You're turning 44 years old and older, but for a young gramma you look 33. How old are you really going to be? Enjoy your day with lots of joy and happiness. Greetings from the Aguas and Chaketa familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CPA prep courses registration deadline on Sept. 7

The deadline to register for BA693A-70-Auditing, Assurance, and Business Environment and Concepts (AABEC) a preparation course for the Certified Public Accountant Exam is Sept. 7 at 5pm.

The course, offered by the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration and Becker Professional Education, will run from Sept. 22 to Dec. 8, 2012. Taught by professor Zeny Nace, CPA, the course runs Saturdays from 8:30am to 12:30pm. For more information, visit the UOG Professional & International Programs website at www.uog.edu or call 735-2600/1. ***(UOG)***

PIC raises $2.5K in 5th Palooza, donates to MINA

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 5th Annual Palooza event hosted by Pacific Islands Club last Saturday raised $2,500 in funds which the hotel donated to the environmental group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

PIC executives handed over the donation to MINA executive director Sam Sablan in a brief ceremony yesterday morning.

PIC Sports, Entertainment, and Activities manager Glenn Policare commended the community for coming "out of the woodwork to help a worthy organization."

"MINA's tireless efforts to keep Saipan's water turquoise blue were reason enough to throw this party," said Policare. "Great costumes, cold drinks and a delicious spread along with some outrageous games were enough to keep the audience more than entertained until well past midnight."

Sablan, for her part, extended her appreciation to PIC management and the Palooza team for putting an "awesome and exciting" event on Aug. 25.

Over 120 community members gathered for a night of fun and good cause during the annual fundraiser held at Charley's Cabaret with the theme, "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Sablan noted the importance of having the hotel industry support the conservation efforts in the Commonwealth.

"By taking actions to improve our environment, be it a donation, participating in beach cleanups or planting a tree, we are taking two steps forward each time, thus creating a better and sustainable future for tourism—CNMI's once-upon-a-time thriving industry," she said.

Sablan said in an interview that the donation will go a long way in helping their various community programs as well as enhancing their education and outreach efforts.

"We hope to solicit more support from the community, particularly the businesses, to come out and really support the environment," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She added, "It is important for the community at large to continue to support conservation efforts in the CNMI despite the economic difficulties we all face."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Executives of Pacific Islands Club, led by SEA manager Glenn Policare, present the $2,500 check to executive director Sam Sablan of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance in a brief ceremony yesterday morning. The donation was the amount raised by PIC through its 5th Annual Palooza event held at Charley's Cabaret last Saturday.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KagHS student orientation this week

Kagman High School has scheduled student orientations on the following dates:

■ Aug. 29—1pm for freshmen and 2pm for sophomores

■ Aug. 30—1pm for juniors and 2pm for seniors

The school is asking parents and students to please attend the orientation. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '93 reunion meeting Friday

Marianas High School Class of 1993 will be having a class reunion meeting on Friday, Aug. 31, starting at 6pm at the home of Clarence and Marie Tenorio in Fina Sisu, Joeten Subdivision, next to Northern Marianas College. For location and direction, contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Marie Castro Tenorio at 234-0406.

SVES parents, guardian orientation this Friday

San Vicente Elementary School will hold its parent and guardian orientation for school year 2012-2013 this Friday, Aug. 31, from 5pm to 6pm at the their children's respective classrooms. ***(PR)***

SBDC 'How to manage your business' on Friday

The Saipan Business Development Center training workshop this week is "How to manage your business" and will be held this Friday, Aug. 31, from 9am to 11am at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room at the Familia Building in Garapan.

Contact 664-3018 to register or go online at www.pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. Registration deadline is 12pm on Aug. 30, 2012. ***(PR)***

ChaCha Ocean View sets orientations for 7th, 8th grade students

ChaCha Ocean View High School will be having an orientation for 7th grade students today, Aug. 30, from 9am to 10:30am and 8th grade students will be on Aug. 31, from 9am to 10:30am in the school cafeteria.

For more information call 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

San Antonio ES to start classes on Sept. 4

San Antonio Elementary School will begin classes on Sept. 4, 2012. The school gate will open at 7:15am. Parents and guardians will meet with their children's classroom teacher during the open house. Open house will be on Sept. 4, K-2nd grade, 5-6pm; Sept. 5, 3rd and 4th grade, 5-6pm; and Sept. 6, 5th and 6th grade, 5-6pm. ***(PR)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-GOV-105
Roof Repair & Coating for Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair & Coating for the Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on August 22, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be presented when obtaining the package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on September 10, 2012 at the project site. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on September 12, 2012, to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB12-GOV-105"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am Saipan local time, September 24, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, September 24, 2012, by fax to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 24, 2012 and must be received no later than October 1, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, October 2, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on September 24, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asses are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars **($200.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT INC.
dba LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
HVAC TECHNICIAN

Location:	Facility and Maintenance Department
Duties:	Repairs roof top cooling units, motors, and pumps of varying size and configuration Wires and maintains electrical temperature controls, changes bearings, fans, motors, and shafts Repairs, installs, and maintains air conditioning compressors and electrical motors Trouble shoots and repairs roof top air conditioning, cooling towers, pumps, coils and related equipment Knows how to use all hand tools, test equipment, power tools and other equipment associated with the trade Performs other work related duties as assigned
Requirements:	High School diploma or GED, additional technical education preferred Three years experience in the trade Knowledge of cooling units, and physically able to perform essential functions Follow plans of procedure, determined sequence of operations and complete a project using acceptable procedures Must be able to be contacted by phone and must respond to emergencies Performs preventive and regularly schedules maintenance of the systems, Technician's training and certification must be in accordance with the provisions found in Subsection 82.161 of 40 CFR Part 82 Subpart F Helps other maintenance staff as needed or as directed
Deadlines:	Applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort no later than Friday, 5:00 pm on September 14, 2012. You can also email your application to mada@laolaobay.com. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of an application. No phone calls will be accepted.
Applications:	Applications are available at the Front Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kagman
Salary:	Minimum wage

The LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort hires only United States Citizen and lawfully authorized nonresident workers who are in compliance with their Immigration Status.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

IN WAKE OF DILG SEC. ROBREDO'S PASSING

Pinoys on Saipan encouraged to sign Book of Condolences

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarisssa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General is encouraging the Filipino community, particularly Bicolanos, and government officials and members of the diplomatic corps in the CNMI to express their sympathies in the Book of Condolences for the passing of Philippine Department of Interior and Local Government secretary Jesse M. Robredo.

Jose M. Sto. Domingo, officer-in-charge at the consulate, said yesterday that the Book of Condolences was opened to the public last Aug. 27 after receiving the directive from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

The directive, Sto. Domingo said, also ordered that the consulate flags fly at half-mast to mourn Robredo's death.

"The flags were flown at half-mast until his funeral on Tuesday," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 54-year-old Robredo died last Aug. 18 when the twin-engine, six-seater Piper Seneca aircraft he boarded in Cebu going to Naga City crashed off the waters of Masbate while attempting an emergency landing.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Philippine Consulate General's Book of Condolences for the late Jesse M. Robredo, secretary of the Philippine Department of Interior and Local Government, will remain open to the public until Friday, Aug. 31, from 9am to 3pm.

The plane crash resulted to the death of Robredo and two others, captain Jessup Bahinting and Nepalese flight student Kshitiz Chand. Only Robredo's aide, Jun Abrazado, survived the crash. Robredo, whose body was found 180 feet below sea level on the third day of intense search and rescue operations, was given a state funeral in Naga City, his hometown.

The consulate also offered a mass for Robredo at 6pm last night at Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan.

"The Book of Condolences will remain open from 9am up to 3pm until Friday, Aug. 31, 2012. We've already sent out invitations to write on the Book of Condolences to Filipino community and island leaders," added Sto. Domingo.

Born on May 27, 1958, Robredo was the third child of Jose Chan-Robredo Sr. and Marcelina Manalastas-Robredo. He graduated with a degree in Industrial Management Engineering and Mechanical Engineering at De La Salle University. He completed his Master in Business Administration at the University of the Philippines and a Masters in Public Administration at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Robredo received 14 major awards in his lifetime, including the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service in 2000. He was celebrated for his work in the government by millions of Filipinos who mourned his death. He is survived by his wife, Atty. Maria Leonor "Leni" Gerona-Robredo, and daughters Jessica Marie, Janine Patricia, and Jillian Therese.

In other news, the consulate will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day. Regular office hours will resume the following day. For more information, call 234-1848 or 50.

Another criminal case filed vs sex trafficking suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government filed yesterday another criminal case against a suspect in a sex trafficking scheme that lured women from China on false promises of jobs and then forced them into prostitution once they got on Saipan.

The information charged Yanchun Li with one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking by fraud, force, or coercion.

The conspiracy allegedly happened from July 2010 to Nov. 6, 2010.

Li was allegedly involved in a conspiracy to recruit three women from China with false and fraudulent promises of employment in the U.S.

The women were promised with work either as waitresses or housekeepers and that their salary would be over $1,000 per month. They were also promised that they would get work visas after their arrival.

After being picked up at the airport, the three women were transported to an apartment. Each one was then collected $4,000 and their passports were taken. The women were told that they would likely be killed by criminals if they went outside.

By using force, fraud, and coercion, the women were then forced to engage in commercial sex.

On Sept. 11, 2010, Li along with others, transported the three women to the Rosen Music Studio for their first day of work.

On October 2010, Li transported the two women from Rosen Music Studio to an apartment procured by Wei Lin to engage in a commercial sex act.

Li transported one woman to a costumer's residence to engage in a commercial sex act in October 2010.

A superseding indictment charged Li and co-defendant Wei Lin with a count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and to benefit financially from a sex trafficking venture; three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion; and one count of financially benefiting from a sex trafficking venture.

Last June, Lin pleaded guilty. His sentencing was set for Sept. 14, 2012.

Woman charged for falsifying marital status

A federal grand jury has indicted a woman who allegedly caused a woman to falsify her marital status in the birth certificate application for a child.

Ying Liu, 39, a Chinese national, was indicted with one count of unlawful production of identification document, one count of false statement of material fact, and one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday, but was unsealed on Monday afternoon after Liu was served with an arrest warrant.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona released Liu on $25,000 unsecured bond and set the arraignment for Friday at 1:30pm.

According to the indictment, on April 30, 2012, Liu caused the Vital Statistics Office to produce a birth certificate for Hua Li's minor child.

The birth certificate unlawfully failed to state the name of Hua Li's husband.

Liu allegedly aided Li to state in a birth certificate application for Li's child that Li was not married, when in fact she was married.

The "fatherless" birth certificate was allegedly used as a supporting document in a passport application for the minor child in order to fraudulently circumvent the two-parent consent rule.

On June 25, 2012, Liu allegedly caused the submission of an "affidavit of correction on vital record" to amend the child's birth certificate to show the name of the father, Dongjun Guo. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Pentecostal church's final medical mission on Sept. 2

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Pentecostal Mission Church of Christ (4th Watch) has announced the conduct of its final medical mission outreach program for the year.

Pastor Claire Javillonar said that the event is slated for Sunday, Sept. 2, from 3pm to 6pm at the church grounds in San Jose Village.

Javillonar said the medical mission will mark the 13th anniversary and thanksgiving celebration of their church.

Services to be provided at the event include blood pressure and blood sugar checkups, eye screening, body massage and reflexology, facial cleansing, haircut, and counseling.

Snacks will be served and health item packages will also be given away, said Javillonar.

The last medical mission held at the Children's Park in Sinapalo Village, Rota was the first time that the outreach program was conducted off-island.

Javillonar disclosed that a total of 65 individuals received the free services during the event held in conjunction of the church's Spiritual Summer Camp 2012.

The Rota medical mission was sponsored by the church's Guam Chapter and the Joeten Group of Companies, which provided the giveaways to those who availed of the free services.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 30, 2004

Millions of slugs invade Rota

Millions of slugs, including "a very harmful" species from the Caribbean called the Cuban slug, have invaded and grown to epidemic proportions on Rota, an expert said. "There's a population outbreak of slugs on Rota. It's a cause of alarm because it's destroying our crops [and] trees. There's a need for immediate assistance from the government," said tropical horticulturist Mark J. Bonin of Rota's Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service. Bonin, who was on Saipan last week for a scheduled workshop that was cancelled due to the typhoon, said the Cuban slug, scientifically known as Vernicella cubenis, is a two-striped slug.

Typhoon Songda tracking toward NMI

Another tropical storm that may intensify into a typhoon is tracking toward the Commonwealth and may hit the islands possibly Wednesday. Based on yesterday's weather forecast, tropical storm Songda was headed west-northwest from about 200 miles northwest of Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands, threatening to hit Agrihan in the Northern Islands. A westerly tilt in its forward movement, though, will threaten the CNMI's major islands-Saipan, Tinian, and Rota-of a possible direct hit. The storm carries with it numerous showers and thunderstorms within 150 miles from the center, the National Weather Service said.

Aug. 30, 2006

Cuts in scholarship funds

The CNMI Scholarship Office is reducing the amount of its grant awards to cope with declining funding. The new budget plan proposes 21-percent cut to the funding of the Scholarship Office. From an annual budget of $4.23 million over the past four years, the Scholarship Office will receive only $3.37 million in fiscal year 2007. According to Scholarship Office director Merissa Mae Seman, the agency has lowered grant amounts to ensure that all qualified applicants get financial assistance in their studies. Teacher scholarship awards, originally set by law to go up to $12,000 per academic year, were reduced to $10,000 last year. This year, teacher scholars are getting only up to $7,500 a year.

GHLI to add $1.10 to premium

After raising the premium rate for the Group Health Insurance program by up to 52 percent earlier this year, the NMI Retirement Fund is proposing to further increase this by $1.10, citing negotiations that fell through with contractor Pharmacare. In a public notice dated July 1, 2006, the Fund proposed to amend the rules and regulations governing the GHI program "to revise the drug formulary by implementing the drug formulary of its third party administrator, Aetna Global Benefits." This amendment "would increase employee premiums under Article 10, section 10.5, by an additional $1.10 for pharmaceutical services to be provided by Aetna due to the falling through during contract negotiations between the program and Pharmacare for pharmacy benefits management."

Aug. 30, 2008

Outages expand to 3 hours

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is expanding the daily rotating power outages from two hours to three hours this week due to ongoing mechanical repairs on engines 2 and 8 at Power Plant 1. The three-hour outages will be rotated across the entire island, with each section experiencing three outages in a 24-hour period. CUC officials had hoped to repair engine 8 by yesterday, but are now anticipating it will not be operational until Sunday, according to a statement issued yesterday. With engines 2 and 6 operating at Power Plant 1, and nine of the engines at Power Plant 4 working, CUC is producing approximately 24 megawatts of power.

Report: Monument waters under threat

In a newly released scientific report, backers of a proposal to designate a 115,000 square mile section of ocean in the CNMI's northern waters as a national marine monument say the region, a "hotspot" for biodiversity, is increasingly under threat from human activity and ecological changes. President Bush in a memo issued earlier this week called on federal agencies to conduct an assessment of the region-the waters surrounding the islands of Maug, Uracus and Asuncion-to determine whether it is a suitable site for establishing a monument, a move that would give it federal protection.

Kilili extends gratitude to National Guard troops

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan yesterday gave his heartfelt gratitude to soldiers of the National Guard following the recent announcement that the 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, of the Guam Army National Guard have received mobilization orders for deployment to Afghanistan early next year.

"We all pray for the safety and swift return of our troops—and especially for the 17 soldiers from the Northern Mariana Islands serving with the Guam National Guard, who will be deployed with their unit next year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

In a conversation with Guam National Guard Major General Benny Paulino, Sablan offered his full support for the unit as the soldiers prepare to deploy. He also asked the major general to keep him apprised of anything that the Northern Mariana Islands Congressional office can do to assist either the soldiers or their families during the deployment.

"The separation of these soldiers from our community and from their families was something they knew to expect when they enlisted in the National Guard. Already they have been separated for shorter periods of time for training. But the announced deployment means a much longer separation and brings the new danger of taking on a combat mission. So our hearts go out to these soldiers," said Sablan.

The congressman also thanked the brave soldiers of the National Guard for doing their duty to their country.

"We thank you for your sacrifice. We will do what we can to help your families through this time of separation. And we will pray for your well being as you serve your country, and for your safety until you return," he said. ***(PR)***

FOR POST-9-11 GI BILL RECIPIENTS IN US TERRITORIES

VA implements increase in monthly housing allowance

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday announced that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has formally issued an administrative policy change regarding the monthly housing allowance for individuals on Guam and in the U.S. territories who receive Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits.

The change, effective as of Aug. 3, 2012, states that veterans residing in the U.S. territories will receive a monthly housing allowance (MHA) based on the Overseas Housing Allowance assigned to the area by the Department of Defense.

The change in policy will increase the housing allowance for veterans on Guam from $1,368.00 a month for housing expenses, which is based on the national Basic Allowance for Housing (BHA) average, to $2,450 a month, which reflects the full basic allowance for housing overseas at the E-5 with dependents level. This revision, however, does not provide for retroactive pay of these benefits.

This administrative policy change is a direct result of a letter the congresswoman submitted to the VA last year requesting clarification on why the former policy provided students on Guam with in-state maximums for tuition and fees but used the blended foreign rate for housing payments as well as subsequent meetings with Secretary Shinseki. She urged the VA to revise current regulations to provide veterans attending schools in Guam with a housing allowance equal to the housing allowance assigned for each respective territory.

"I am pleased that the VA has implemented this favorable change for our veterans on Guam and those in the U.S. territories who depend on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill to pursue higher education," said Bordallo. "This revision provides our veterans with additional funds to appropriately offset their housing expenses, and brings parity with other veterans using these benefits in the mainland.

"Although this policy change does not provide for retroactive payments, the VA's decision to get this done administratively reduced the amount of time it would have taken had it gone through a formal regulatory change. A formal regulatory change would have taken several years or longer and not guaranteed a change in housing allowance payments for veterans. We will continue to work with VA to pursue a regulatory change that would seek retroactive payments. It is also important that we continue to support our veterans at home, and I look forward to seeing our veteran community fully utilize these funds." ***(PR)***

DOJ awards Guam $658K to help stop violence against women

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week announced that the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women has awarded the Government of Guam $658, 386 in federal financial assistance.

These federal funds will be administered by the Office of the Governor and distributed, based on statutorily established proportions, to government and nonprofit stakeholders as part of the DOJ's Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women formula grant program. The STOP Violence Against Women Program encourages the development and implementation of effective, victim centered law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving crimes against women.

"The federal funds received today will help the Government of Guam improve services for women and children who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. This grant also promotes greater collaboration between local government agencies in prosecuting the perpetrators of these violent crimes," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "These funds were authorized by the 2005 Violent Against Women Act (VAWA), which has provided critical resources and support for women and children affected by crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.

"Further, as we celebrate Women's Equality Day this Sunday, a day to commemorate the anniversary of the Constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote, we should also reflect on the progress women have made throughout the years and call attention to the many obstacles we have yet to overcome.

"Earlier this year, House Republicans passed a flawed VAWA reauthorization bill that would eliminate critical protections for immigrants, native tribes, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. As Congress works to reauthorize a new VAWA bill, I will continue to work with my colleagues to address inadequacies in the original legislation and help ensure that all women never feel trapped or helpless against their abusers." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row left to right, Speaker Judi Won Pat, Mayor Francisco Blas, Sen. Tina Muña-Barnes, GHURA board member Cecile Suda, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, acting governor Ray Tenorio, Vice Mayor Louise Rivera, GHURA director Ray Topasna, and GHURA deputy director Frank Camacho during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Affordable housing development creates 60 new homes in Guam

HAGÅTÑA—Sen. Tina Muña-Barnes provided opening remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Ironwood Heights Phase II project last week in Upper Tumon.

With the completion of the 2nd phase of the housing development, 60 affordable housing units will be made available to qualified families.

Ironwood Heights Phase II consists of 24 two bedroom and 36 three bedroom units. Residents of Phase II will have access to the existing community center, outdoor gazebo, and playground. They will also have access to a host of community-focused activities and resident services such as the IronKids after-school program for elementary school children

as well as various adult career and financial training seminars.

In his opening remarks, Ironwood developer Carlos Camacho unveiled the 60-unit development which brought the total number of Ironwood homes in Guam to 434. Along with Muña-Barnes, presentations were made by Ironwood founder, Rick Inman, acting governor Ray Tenorio, GHURA Executive Director Ray Topasna, and Francisco Blas, Mayor of Tamuning, Tumon, and Harmon. Also in attendance during the ceremony were

Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Guam Housing Corporation president Martin Benavente, GHURA board members, as well as Ironwood Heights new homeowners.

Muña-Barnes, Oversight Chairperson of Housing and a founding member of the Governor's Affordable Housing Coordinating Council, had this to say about the completion of the Ironwood Heights Phase II development:

"I am proud of the efforts that have been made to create the Ironwood Community." said Muña-Barnes. "These homes mean stronger connections between people and their communities. This stability also increases opportunities for our island's youth and families. As we continue our work to meet the demand for Affordable Housing, we can look to communities like Ironwood Heights as a shining example of the housing developments our people deserve."

For more information please call the Office of Senator Muña-Barnes at 472-3455/6. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ironwood founder Rick Inman and Ironwood & Micronesia Community Development Corp.'s Carlos Camacho present Sen. Tina Muña-Barnes with a certificate recognizing her efforts in support of affordable housing initiatives and in commemoration of their 434th Affordable Home on Guam.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Ecuador provides latest strange twist in Assange tale

The grant of extradition to WikiLeaks founder and alleged sex-crime perpetrator Julian Assange by Ecuador is the most bewildering twist yet in this long, bizarre saga. Up to now, the government of Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa was better known for stifling freedom of the press at home than for championing the free flow of information. If ever there was an odd coupling of convenience, this is certainly it.

There's no mystery over why Assange, a 41-year-old Australian, should choose to go on the run, defy his bail conditions in Britain and seek asylum in any country willing to stick its neck out for him _ any port in a storm, and Ecuador's embassy in London would do as well as any other.

But for Correa, the only way to explain this strange and otherwise inexplicable maneuver is the president's apparently urgent desire to burnish his anti-American credentials and claim for himself some of the notoriety and adulation from leftist sympathizers that he feels is his due.

Next door in Venezuela, poor Hugo Chavez must be beside himself with envy to see a neighbor steal the anti-yanqui spotlight: Why didn't he take cover in my embassy?

If Correa had any credibility as a defender of press freedom at home, his support for Assange could be written off as a mere quixotic venture. But his record is one of repeated attacks on free speech in any form.

Since taking office, Mr. Correa's government has mounted an unending assault on the independent news media, consistently stoking the fires of anti-Americanism along the way. In June, the Inter American Press Association sounded yet another alarm, this one over the recent closure of six radio and TV stations.

Last month, Human Rights Watch condemned his government for using harsh criminal defamation laws to silence critics and violate its international human rights obligations. In a recent interview, an Ecuadorean journalist said he wished the government would offer its own reporters the same level of protection it extends to Assange, instead of harassing them at every turn.

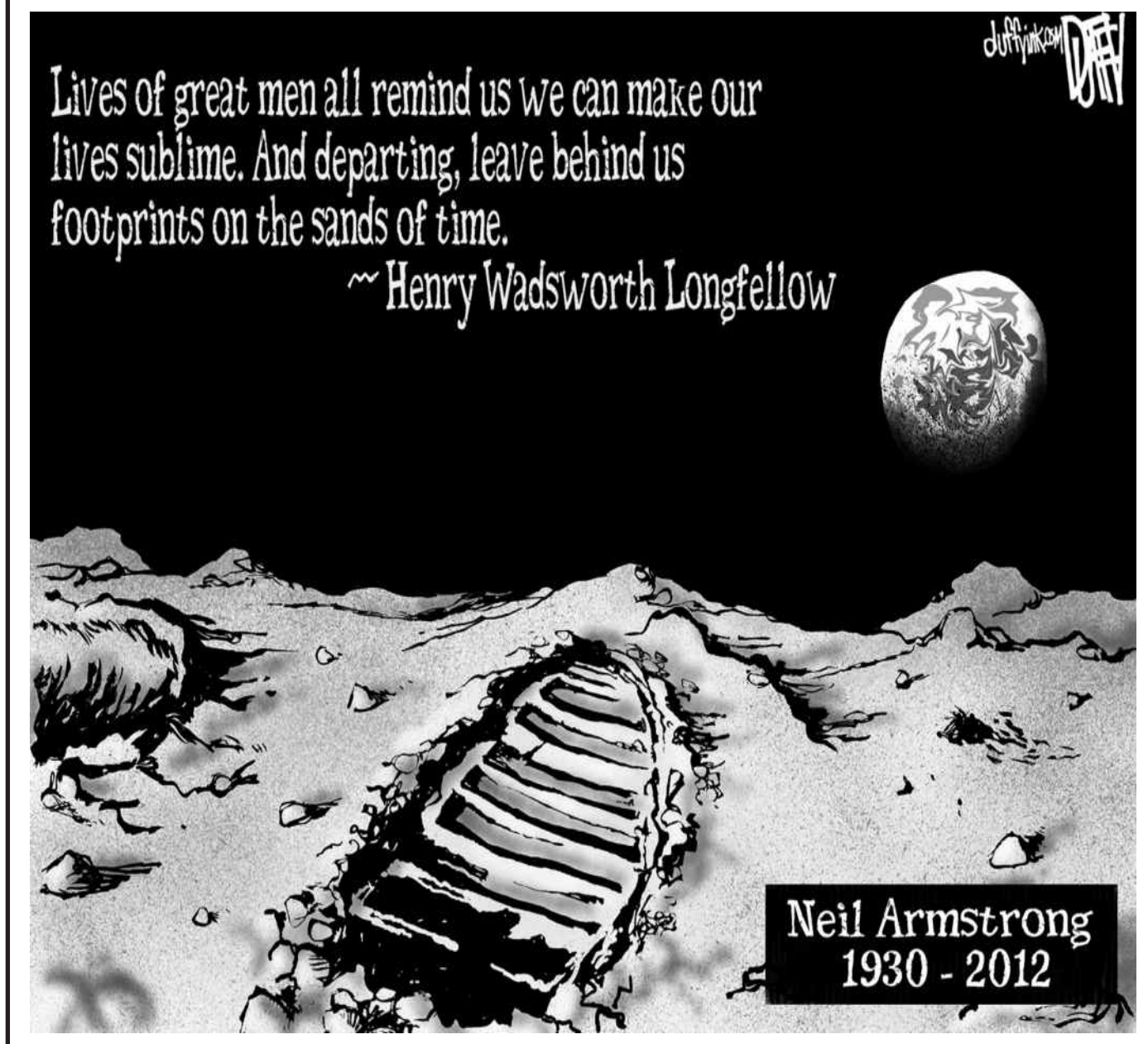
After all this, it's ridiculous for Correa to think he can don the mantle of press freedom by reaching out to an accused criminal fleeing the due process of law.

It's equally absurd for Assange, whose supporters see him as an anti-authoritarian hero, to align himself with a budding despot like Correa while claiming to be a martyr for freedom of information.

Assange sees himself as the victim of an international political plot, a sinister U.S.-led effort to make him face prosecution in this country over the extensive disclosure by WikiLeaks of secret U.S. cables. But he has a selective view of the law. He's happy to take advantage of political asylum laws, but won't face extradition to Sweden, where he's wanted for questioning over alleged sex crimes.

Assange claims Sweden only wants him so that he can be

See ECUADOR on Next Page


Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime. And departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time.
~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Neil Armstrong
1930 - 2012

Outrage over Pussy Riot sentence puts Russia on notice

By PETER GOLDMARK
Newsday

Peter Goldmark, a former budget director of New York State, is a member of the State Budget Crisis Task Force. He wrote this for Newsday.

On a December afternoon in 1955, something snapped in Rosa Parks. She got on the bus in Montgomery, Ala., that took her home from her work as a seamstress. But she refused to move to the back, where she was "supposed" to sit. Parks was black, and the front of the bus was for white people.

In December 2010, Mohamed Bouazizi, a fruit peddler in Tunisia, set himself afire to protest a corrupt regime and its brutal police. His suicide triggered the Arab spring that has swept across the Middle East.

Turning points in history often erupt from the actions of strong people who put their lives on the line for a belief. This summer another gutsy blow for freedom was struck, this time by a music group of three young Russian women protesting the dictatorship in their country.

Pussy Riot will be known not for its music but for the willingness of its members to risk everything for freedom. Like Parks, they knew they would be arrested. And like Parks they went ahead anyway.

What the Pussy Riot women did was call for the removal of Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, in a prominent Moscow church. For doing so, they were sentenced on Aug. 17 to a penal colony for two years by a politically controlled court.

Our job now is to make sure they don't just vanish from the public mind. Moscow police are looking for at least two more members of the band, and the ones already in custody will not have an easy time if the world averts its eyes. In Russia, a penal colony can mean hellish conditions, and two of the three women are young mothers.

In banishing the women, Putin isn't just revealing his weakness. He's also acting in accord with a long and benighted tradition in a country with a bloody autocratic pedigree. Down through the centuries, Russian despots have exiled, brutalized or killed political protesters from Fyodor Dostoevsky to Natan Sharansky.

Since the whole idea of such brutality is to silence dissent, let's take a moment to listen to what the three band members had to say, in their own words, from their statements before the court.

Yekaterina Samutsevich: "Our sudden musical appearance in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior with the song 'Mother of God, Drive Putin Out' violated the integrity of the media image that the authorities had spent such a long time generating. ... In our performance we dared, without the Patriarch's blessing, to unite the visual image of Orthodox culture with that of protest culture, thus suggesting that Orthodox culture ... could also ally itself with civic rebellion and the spirit of protest in Russia."

Maria Alekhina: "Our performance, at first a small and somewhat absurd act, snowballed into an enormous catastrophe. This would obviously not happen in a healthy society. Russia, as a state, has long resembled an organism sick to the core. And the sickness explodes out into the open when you rub up against its inflamed abscesses."

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova: "Every day more people understand that if the system is attacking three young women who performed in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior for 30 seconds ... it only means that this system fears the truth, sincerity, and straightforwardness we represent. ... Katya, Masha and I may be in prison, but I do not consider us defeated."

Russia is a long way from America. But you and I enjoy the freedom and prosperity of a country founded by people willing to run the same risks and speak out for the same values as Rosa Parks, Mohammed Bouazizi and Pussy Riot did. For that reason we salute them. And for that reason, the rulers of Russia will cower and cringe as they come to understand that they have been playing with fire.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Of street sweepers, shopkeepers, streetwalkers

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

If we characterize China as a nation of shopkeepers and street sweepers, we might be sentimental and askew on the statistics on the actual people involved.

Perched on the 11th floor of my building, the sight of street sweepers is hard to miss. On my buildings' street front alone, I see uniformed (in reflective orange vests) personnel sweeping the road with twigs bundled at the end of a long pole. At 7am, a truck sprays water into the street to dampen the ubiquitous dust, but not strong or long enough to push it into the drains. Besides, pedestrians are not particularly careful with their trash, and often, someone actually has to pick-up the plastic off the streets before it clogs the drainage.

Speaking of plastics, the lowly paid street sweepers double as recyclers. At the university thoroughfares, I see street sweepers foraging through the trash bins for plastic bottles and containers thrown away with the refuse. However, in spite of the massive public effort and government support to recycle materials, the issue of trash still bedevils urban China!

Commerce is the singular preoccupation of the Chinese population. The exchange of materials, goods, and services is all over the place. First floors of many buildings abutting the streets are added with hole-on-the-wall stores run by shopkeepers to serve as distributing networks of manufactured products, from garments, knick-knacks, preserved food, to electronics.

The open street markets and sidewalk hawkers are quintessentially native, with displays of fresh produce either in modular stalls, or simply laid out on pieces of clothes, or bed sheets. Here, the hawking and haggling reign. The dynamic of the open market centers on negotiating the price of a commodity, and what transpires is the sense that somehow, the seller gets what s/he is due, and the buyer gets a bargain!

That pretty much describes the equilibrated nature of Chinese decision-making. Everything is tentative until the actual doing, or the final transaction. As the popular T-shirt signage lauds: it is not the destination but the journey that matters.

Westerners are often flabbergasted over a Chinese response of "yes," when in fact it is at best, a "maybe", or worst, a polite "no." Until the rubber hits the road, all is tentative. My English language students often express themselves in the indefinite subjunctive mood.

On the other hand, I have watched executives decide on the phone, with firmness and clear orders for immediate and rapid execution, though I often think the matter could have been planned and put on schedule ahead of time, saving everyone the insecurity of uncertainty. But the adrenaline flows precisely from the uncertainty. Of the hawkers, a sale is not final until money is exchanged for goods.

That also characterizes the transactions of streetwalkers. We are using that term as used in Garapan, and the old 42nd St. of NYC, where all kinds of muscle massaging is involved. We once researched a series on the a local Saipan House of Horus, and the contrast between the shroud of morality among Filipino stage dancers and bar girls versus the practicality of their hawking Chinese counterparts is startling.

For the Pinay, I heard the tale of the violated lass pained to penury graduating to the shadows of the night. For the Chinese ladies, who came on island to the CNMI on the promise of crispy green bucks in the island's once bustling industry, the issue was simply when, where, and how much, with the later down up front!

Over the weekend, we visited the Dongling mausoleum of Nurhachi who united various Jurchen tribes to found the Qing dynasty of China. Later, Kangxi, who appended the title of Khan to Nurhachi, built the mausoleum and his sumptuous quarters with those of the concubines.

Concubinage was an accepted political method of peaceful alliance with another sovereign, and Kangxi's favorite Concubine Chen from Mongolia bore him a son who lived only for six months. The despondent mother was never the same afterwards. She died at 33.

It was not the historical personages, or their sentimental circumstances that struck me. It was the matter-of-fact arrangement on the harem that did, so practically organized without apology according to the social pecking order. Membership was not as extensive as those of Mesopotamia but the ladies' intrigue in the ruler's court livened the environment then, and still makes for good television drama today.

Shenzhen is a new industrial and financial center in the southern part of China between Hong Kong and Guangzhou (known in the West as Canton). The new batch of migrant mid-level management honchos in the region created enclaves of housing where the "concubines" are kept with shopping access to Givenchy while the good wife stays back home with the kid(s). Trickle down economics understandably flows every other way!

Napoleon's warning against waking up of the sleeping tiger is often understood in terms of military might. We might have misunderstood. We awakened a panda that now nibbles on our nubile native bamboo shoots.

The street sweeping is China's public works program. The shopkeepers of the Middle Realm now dominate world commerce. The streetwalkers, save on Saipan, now list with escort services. Sign of the times!

Norway's sane killer

By NATHAN LEAN
Los Angeles Times

Nathan Lean is editor in chief of AslanMedia.com. He is the author of "The Islamophobia Industry: How the Right Manufactures Fear of Muslims." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

On Friday, a Norwegian court ruled that Anders Behring Breivik, who mowed down 77 people in a bombing and shooting rampage in Oslo in July 2011, was sane. It was a verdict that many had waited for, one ensuring that the cold and loveless man who carried out the country's worst bloodbath since World War II would be held responsible for his actions and not dismissed as a helpless victim of his sick mind.

It was also the verdict that Breivik himself wanted. He loathed the idea of incarceration in a mental facility, a fate he called "worse than death," and insisted during the 10-week trial that his fertilizer bomb and machine gun were necessary instruments to stop what he viewed as a creeping Muslim takeover of Europe.

The court's decision was the right one. It comes at a time when heightened anxiety over the presence of Muslims in Europe and the United States has ignited a string of attacks on the faith community. The extreme right-wing ideology from which Breivik emerged has fueled McCarthy-esque witch hunts, mosque burnings and vandalism, and temple shootings. While wildly out of touch with responsible human discourse and seemingly pathological, this climate of hate is hardly the stuff of lunatics. It is a dangerous political reality with destructive consequences.

Statistics show that nearly two decades after the Oklahoma City bombing, right-wing extremism _ not Muslim-led terrorism _ is a growing threat. According to the Center for American Progress, which consolidated data from multiple sources, since 1995 extremists on the far right have perpetrated 56 percent of domestic terrorism attacks in the United States. That's compared with 12 percent carried out by radical Muslims. The likes of Breivik, Timothy McVeigh and Wade Michael Page have been responsible for the majority of terrorist incidents in 13 of the 17 years since the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building crumbled. In that same period, the Southern Poverty Law Center has tracked a startling 26 percent increase in the number of American hate groups. It is their rhetoric that frightens anxious citizens about the alleged menace of minority groups and can push those fears to oft-deadly conclusions.

The Islamophobia that led Breivik to his ruinous binge, for example, came from his digestion of the writings of several anti-Muslim activists, including bloggers Robert Spencer and Pamela Geller, who head the group Stop the Islamization of America. Breivik mentioned them in his 1,500-page manifesto, posted online. The pair has agitated some of the country's nastiest displays of prejudice. Their bus advertisements equating the Palestinian cause with jihad created a stir in New York and San Francisco, and they fanned the flames of the uproar over the Park51 Islamic Community Center in 2010.

Damningly, they see their mission as Breivik saw his: They call themselves "freedom fighters" on a valorous journey to save the world from Muslims. But when it was publicized that the Norway killer mentioned Spencer and Geller in his writings, they cried foul. "Clearly this individual is insane," Spencer wrote on his blog. After Breivik's initial psychological evaluation Geller expressed relief, writing, that Breivik was "declared certifiably insane, which was evident by his actions and his ten-years-in-the-making manifesto."

The magnitude of Breivik's butchery was apparently sufficient evidence of his psychosis. No normal person, in Geller and Spencer's view, would ever do such a thing. But only if that person is not a Muslim. When Muslims engage in violence, they are represented by Islamophobes as ordinary believers acting in a way that aligns with tenets of their faith, not fringe lunatics whose delusional religious interpretations lead them to a monstrous end. Though Spencer and Geller denounced Breivik's violence, they never rejected his anti-Muslim ideas. And that is a problem.

The Norwegian court's verdict, which means that Breivik will spend at least 21 years behind bars (and probably much more), underscores the need for society to address those who promote hatred and jabber about the evils of multiculturalism and the looming clash of civilizations. It proves that amplified racism, which carves society into fragments and pits them against one another, has real consequences and reaches the minds of rational thinkers who absorb such narratives and take them to their logical conclusions.

Trying to wish away intolerance and bigotry may be convenient but it is costly. During Breivik's trial, a right-wing extremist testified that he knew of nearly 100 other people who share the killer's views and supported his massacre.

Chillingly, this month Czech police raided the apartment of and arrested one such apparent supporter. They discovered a bomb, automatic weapons, police uniforms, a detonator and 400 rounds of ammunition.

The discourse of hate must be stopped before it affects other extremists quietly waiting for an opportunity to be lauded as heroes.

ECUADOR

From Page 10

turned over to U.S. authorities. Yet there is no U.S. request for extradition, nor is he charged with any crime in this country. And Sweden has a strong tradition of granting asylum to victims of persecution.

Ecuador should reserve asylum for genuine victims of government persecution, rather than grant it to a figure who disdains the laws of two democracies (Britain and Sweden) in pursuit of his own political agenda. To end the impasse, Ecuador should seek assurances from Sweden that Assange's rights will be respected, then persuade him that leaving the embassy is the best option for everyone.

(c)2012 The Miami Herald

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°

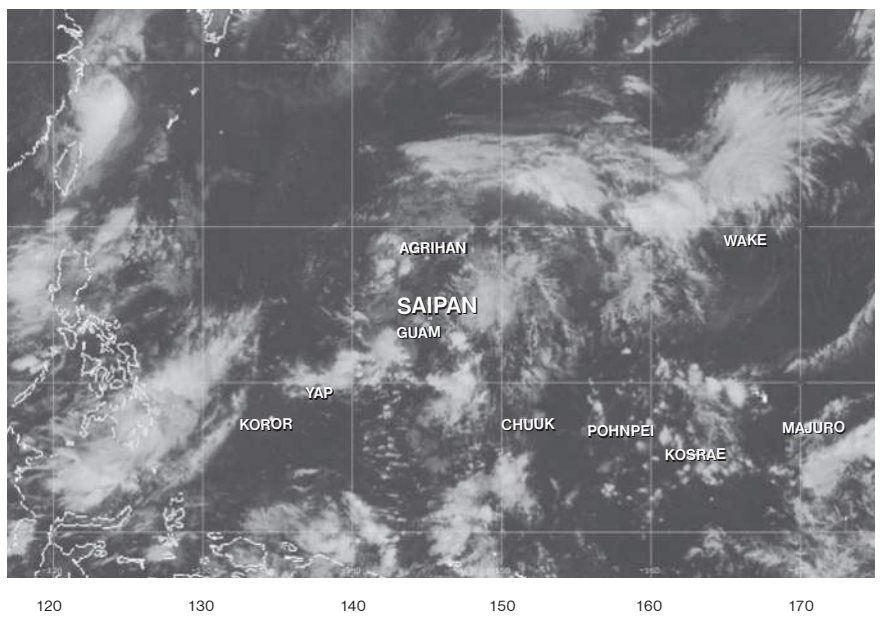
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲57	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
London	Showers	▲67	▼51
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼70
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼41
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲79	▼59
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼71
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼70
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼77
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough stretches northeast from near Koror at 6N131E through a broad circulation centered north of Yap at 13N138E to end near 20N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found northwest of Koror west of a line from 8N132E to 14N134E, near Yap and Guam within 100 miles of a line from 10N137E to 12N144E, and west of the Northern Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 14N142E to 21N145E. Another surface trough east of the Marianas extends from 8N148E to 17N151E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring within 140 miles of the trough axis. A third surface trough curves eastward from 23N150E to 21N159E to 23N167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present northwest of Wake Island between 19N and 25N from 150E to 169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
6:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:22PM	4:31 AM
Friday	6:04PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	6:45PM	6:18 AM
Sunday	7:25PM	7:10 AM
Monday	8:05PM	8:00 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Apple's victory means soul-searching for Samsung

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A U.S. jury's $1 billion verdict against Samsung for what rival Apple claimed was the illegal copying of its iPhone and iPad designs signals a turning point for the South Korean electronics giant known for its prowess in adapting the innovations of others and nimbly executing production.

The verdict not only jolted the world of global gadgetry but also likely sparked some soul-searching in Suwon, South Korea, where the family-run Samsung conglomerate is based.

The world's top seller of smartphones finds itself in the post-iPhone reality, where the decades-long practice of industry mimicry now can mean a bruising legal challenge.

And so Samsung finds itself in a position of having to recreate itself as an innovator, not an imitator. But the switch, experts say, will be much more challenging and time-consuming than the shortcuts Samsung used to take.

"The case shows that Samsung is still inadequate in soft(ware) area, such as designs and patents," M.S. Hwang, a Hong Kong-based analyst at Samsung Securities, said in a commentary.

Samsung Electronics Co. has a top-heavy command structure that centers on the founding family. At the apex is 70-year-old Lee Kun-hee, who inherited the mantle from his father, Samsung founder Lee Byung-chull, in 1987.

The strict hierarchy has enabled speedy and bold investment and swift execution. That, plus the ability to build on the innovations of others, like Sony Corp.—has helped Samsung become the world's largest maker of televisions, memory chips, liquid crystal display panels and now smartphones.

Its path is reminiscent of many Japanese companies, like Canon Inc. and Nikon Corp., which started out by copying European designs and then became innovators and pace-setters in the 1960s and 70s.

"It is impossible to be an innovator from the beginning," said Chang Sea-jin, a professor at National University of Singapore. "If you don't have a technology, imitating more advanced companies is the easiest way to catch up."

Samsung has long been regarded as a "fast follower"—imitating or licensing technologies and then competing by lowering costs, improving quality and adding functions.

It overcame its belated entry into the memory chip business in 1983 with efficient mass production and investments. Today, Samsung supplies about 30 percent of the chips that go into electronic gadgets.

In the early 2000s, Samsung claimed leadership in the global television industry.

But when Apple released its cutting-edge iPhone in 2007, Samsung employees were likely too pressed to catch up to scrutinize possible patent encroachments. South Korea's idea of intellectual property is also less strict than that in the U.S., Chang said, and speedy execution is highly valued at Samsung.

New mileage standards would double fuel efficiency

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration has finalized regulations that will force automakers to nearly double the average gas mileage of all new cars and trucks they sell by 2025.

The rules mean that all new vehicles would have to get an average of 54.5 miles per gallon in 13 years, up from 28.6 mpg at the end of last year. The requirements will be phased in gradually between now and then, and automakers could be fined if they don't comply.

The regulations, announced Tuesday, will change the cars and trucks sold in U.S. showrooms, with the goal of slashing greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption. Automakers will need to improve gasoline-powered engines, and sell more alternative fuel vehicles. Critics say the rules will make cars unaffordable by adding thousands of dollars to the sticker price.

The "Corporate Average Fuel Economy," or CAFE standards, will vary by automaker depending on the mix of models they sell. The requirements will be lower for companies such as General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, which offer more pickup trucks. The standards can be lowered by the government if people suddenly start buying less-efficient vehicles in the future, although few expect that to happen.

The administration says the latest changes will save families up to $7,400 on fuel over the life of a vehicle. The standards also are the biggest step the U.S. government has ever taken toward cutting greenhouse gas emissions, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson said. Tailpipe emissions from cars and light trucks will be halved by 2025.

President Barack Obama said the new fuel standards "represent the single most important step" his administration has taken to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

United suffers computer issues, delays widespread

BY JOSHUA FREED
AP AIRLINES WRITER

United Airlines passengers faced delays and long lines after some of its major computer systems and its website failed Tuesday.

The glitch was another in a long string of technology problems that began when United merged computer systems with Continental's in March.

United acknowledged at least 200 delayed flights. Its passenger reservation system and website stopped working for about two-and-a-half hours on Tuesday afternoon, although the precise cause wasn't known.

The outage didn't affect planes in flight.

Passengers in several United hubs reported very long lines at ticket counters. During the outage it stopped sending planes to its hubs in Newark, N.J., and San Francisco.

Alex Belo was waiting at Newark to get on a flight to Mexico City. He considered himself lucky to be behind only 100 or so people waiting to check a bag—because there were another 300 to 400 behind him.

"The line is not moving, or very slowly moving. And they're giving priority only to first class," he said.

United said it will not charge the usual change fees for passengers on affected flights who want to cancel or rebook their tickets. It apologized for the disruption.

Simon Duvall spent two hours sitting on his flight waiting for the computer problems to be resolved. People were calm but not happy, he said.

"We're on a plane, on the tarmac in Las Vegas in the middle of August. It's warm. It's uncomfortable. It's cramped," he said.

United Continental Holdings Inc. has been struggling with computer issues off and on since March, when it switched to using Continental's system for tracking passenger information. The two airlines merged in 2010.

Airlines rely on software to know who is filling the seats on its planes, and how many empty seats are available. Those computer systems make it possible to print boarding passes, too.

Rich Pearson, head of marketing at professional freelance site Elance, was stuck in Houston on his way to present at a jobs seminar at the Republican convention in Tampa, Fla.

Planes were lined up on the tarmac. "It's almost like horseback riding when they are all nose-to-butt," Pearson said. "It's like we've gone back 50 years."

Nation

Republicans nominate Romney, lambaste Obama

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Mitt Romney swept to the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday night at a storm-delayed national convention scripted to propel him into a close race for the White House in tough economic times.

AP

Delegates from the state of Georgia applaud after casting their votes for presidential candidate Mitt Romneyduring the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012.

The former Massachusetts governor watched on television with his wife, Ann, at a hotel suite across the street from the convention hall as delegates sealed his hard-won victories in the primaries and caucuses of last winter.

New Jersey put him over the top in a ritual roll call of the states.

Republican mockery of President Barack Obama began almost instantly from the podium at a convention postponed once and dogged still by Hurricane Isaac. The Democratic president has "never run a company. He hasn't even run a garage sale or seen the inside of a lemonade stand," declared Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican Party.

To send Romney and ticketmate Paul Ryan into the fall campaign, the convention quickly approved a conservative platform that calls for tax cuts—not government spending—to stimulate the economy at a time of sluggish growth and 8.3 percent unemployment. Ann Romney's speech was scheduled as a prime-time highlight, an appearance meant to cast her multimillionaire-businessman-turned-politician husband in a soft and likable light before a national TV audience.

Aides said Romney would be in the hall when she spoke.

While there was no doubt about Romney's command over the convention, the residue of a heated campaign for the nomination was evident inside the hall.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul, who never won a primary or caucus, drew several dozen delegate votes. Earlier, his supporters chanted and booed after the convention adopted rules they opposed, but were powerless to block, to prevent those votes from being officially registered.

Opinion polls made the race a close one as the Republicans' days of pageantry and speechmaking began in earnest, and the man tapped to deliver the keynote address set the stakes.

"Conventions are always huge for a challenger, because they're the ones introducing themselves" to the voters, said New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Convention planners squeezed two days of speeches and other convention business into one after scrapping Monday's scheduled opener because of fears that Isaac would make a direct hit on the Florida Gulf Coast.

That threat fizzled, but it was instantly replaced by another—that Republicans would wind up holding a political celebration at the same time the storm turned its fury on New Orleans, devastated almost exactly seven years ago by Hurricane Katrina. Romney's convention planners said they were in frequent contact with weather forecasters, but they declined to discuss what contingency plans, if any, they had to accelerate plans for him to deliver a formal acceptance speech Thursday night.

Gulf Coast braces for Hurricane Isaac's wrath

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Gulf Coast braced for the landfall of Hurricane Isaac late Tuesday, hunkering down behind boarded-up windows with stockpiles of food and water as wind-driven rain lashed bayous and beaches. New Orleans calmly waited out another storm on the eve of Hurricane Katrina's seventh anniversary, hoping the city's strengthened levees will hold.

Isaac, a massive storm spanning nearly 200 miles from its center, zeroed in on New Orleans, turning streets famous for hosting celebrations at all hours into ghost boulevards. Evacuations were ordered in Mississippi's coastal counties and the closure of its 12 shorefront casinos. But there was little fear or panic. With New Orleans' airport closed, tourists retreated to hotels and most denizens of a coastline that has witnessed countless hurricanes decided to ride out the storm.

"Isaac is the son of Abraham," said Margaret Thomas, who was trapped for a week in her home in New Orleans' Broadmoor neighborhood by Katrina's floodwaters, yet chose to stay put this time. "It's a special name that means `God will protect us'."

Still, Isaac, which strengthened late Tuesday to 80 mph winds and remained on track to cross land in southern Louisiana near the Mississippi River early this evening, drew intense scrutiny because of its timing to the Katrina anniversary and the first major speeches of a Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., already delayed and tempered by the storm. "We don't expect a Katrina-like event, but remember there are things about a Category 1 storm that can kill you," New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said, urging people to use common sense and to stay off any streets that may flood.

Other officials, chastened by memories and experience, advised caution. Tens of thousands of people were told to leave low-lying areas, including 700 patients of Louisiana nursing homes.

Many residents along the Gulf Coast opted to ride it out in shelters or at home and officials, while sounding alarm about the dangers of the powerful storm, decided not to call for the mass evacuations like those that preceded Katrina, which packed 135 mph winds in 2005.

Isaac offers one of the first tests of a New Orleans levee system bolstered after the catastrophic failures during Hurricane Katrina. But calm prevailed in the city Tuesday as residents sized up the threat.

"I feel safe," said Pamela Young, who settled in to her home in the Lower 9th Ward—a neighborhood devastated by Katrina—with dog Princess and her television, waiting for the storm. "Everybody's talking `going, going,' but the thing is, when you go, there's no telling what will happen. The storm isn't going to just hit here." Young, who lives in a new, two-story home built to replace the one destroyed by Katrina, said she wasn't worried about the levees.

Asia

Typhoon pounds South Korea, smashes ships; 9 dead

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A powerful typhoon pounded South Korea with strong winds and heavy rain Tuesday, killing nine and churning up rough seas that smashed two Chinese fishing ships into rocks and forced the coast guard to perform a daring rescue of survivors.

Rescuers saved 12 fishermen and searched for 10 still missing from the ships that hit rocks off South Korea's southern Jeju island. Five fishermen were killed, officials said.

Separately, at least four other people died as Typhoon Bolaven knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of South Koreans, canceled flights and temporarily halted joint war games by U.S. and South Korean military forces.

North Korea, which is still struggling to rebuild from massive floods and a devastating drought before that, was next in the typhoon's path. Heavy rain and strong winds hit many parts of the country Tuesday, a day that was supposed to be a North Korean celebration of its young people.

The typhoon knocked down hundreds of trees, destroyed power cables and caused blackouts in the western cities of Kaesong and Haeju, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. It said damage was expected to grow as the typhoon moves across the country.

AP

A Chinese fisherman wearing an orange life vest, center, is rescued by South Korean coast guard officers from a Chinese ship in Jeju, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012.

Off South Korea's Jeju island, dangerous waves kept rescue vessels from approaching the wrecked fishing ships. The coast guard used a special gun to shoot rope to one ship so officers could pull themselves over and bring the fishermen back to shore, coast guard spokesman Ko Chang-keon said.

Eighteen fishermen survived. The coast guard rescued 12, and the others swam or were washed ashore.

South Korea issued a storm warning for the capital, Seoul, as Bolaven battered the country's south and west, knocking over street lights and church spires and ripping signs from stores. A large container box crushed an apartment janitor to death, a woman fell to her death from a rooftop where she kept dried red peppers and another person died after bricks hit a house, according to disaster and fire officials. An 80-year-old man died after a small makeshift building fell on him, officials said.

Strong wind gusts left Seoul streets covered with leaves, garbage and branches. More than 15,000 schools canceled classes, and businesses and homes taped windows or pasted the glass with wet newspapers to keep them from shattering.

China, wary of Arab Spring, hosts Egypt's Morsi

BEIJING (AP)—Egypt's newly elected president met with China's future leader Wednesday on the second day of a visit that seeks to deepen economic and diplomatic ties despite Beijing's uneasiness with the Arab Spring revolution that helped bring him to power.

President Mohammed Morsi hopes his trip will bring trade and investment to shore up his country's flagging economy. On Tuesday, China pledged $200 million in credit for the National Bank of Egypt, with the sides also signing agreements on agriculture, telecommunications, the environment and other areas.

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping told Morsi on Wednesday that China placed "tremendous value on this visit."

"It is hoped this visit will further increase our mutual understanding and trust, promote greater cooperation and exchanges between our two countries, bring new vitality to bilateral relations and open a new chapter in friendly contacts," said Xi, who is due to take over as president next spring in a transition of power to a younger generation.

Morsi responded by terming Egyptian-Chinese ties as a "strategic relationship" he hoped to enhance with his meetings in Beijing.

Morsi, an Islamist who took office in June as Egypt's first freely elected civilian president, met Tuesday with President Hu Jintao.

It is Morsi's first state visit outside the Middle East and Africa since becoming president, underscoring China's importance as one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and as a vital source of trade and investment. The visit is also seen as part of a reorientation of Egyptian foreign policy away from a heavy focus on the U.S.

Morsi was preceded to Beijing by a delegation of 80 Egyptian business leaders who planned to discuss investment projects with 200 Chinese counterparts.

The trip is also a chance for the countries to rebuild their relations in the wake of the popular uprising last year that drove longtime President Hosni Mubarak from power, paving the way for democracy and Morsi's election.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine Airlines to buy 54 Airbus jets

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Flag-carrier Philippine Airlines signed a $7 billion deal on Tuesday to buy 54 Airbus jets as part of an ambitious plan to overhaul its fleet to meet higher demands of transporting passengers and cargo in Asia, the Middle East and Australia, airline officials said. PAL President Ramon Ang said the first batch of about a dozen wide-body A330-300s and A321s would be delivered in January while the rest of the aircraft would be put in service in the next three years. The acquisition, the largest single aircraft order ever made by a Philippine carrier, would more than double the airline's passenger and cargo handling capacity and signals an expansion phase after Philippine food and beer conglomerate San Miguel Corp. acquired major stakes in PAL and its affiliate budget carrier Air Philippines Corp. earlier this year.

Japan, North Korea hold first talks in 4 years

BEIJING (AP)—Japan and North Korea are holding their first government-to-government talks in four years amid hopes for a fresh approach on foreign relations from new North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The talks that begin Wednesday in Beijing are being closely watched for changes in both their tone and the topics raised. Discussions have been frozen since August 2008 because of animosity over past frictions and disputes over the North's nuclear program and its kidnapping of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s.

World

France opens murder inquiry into Arafat's death

PARIS (AP)—French prosecutors opened a murder inquiry into the death of Yasser Arafat on Tuesday, his widow's lawyer said, after she and a TV investigation raised new questions about whether the Palestinian leader was poisoned.

Many in the Arab world have long suspected that Arafat was poisoned, and a Swiss lab's recent finding of elevated levels of polonium-210—a rare and highly lethal radioactive substance—on Arafat's clothing has fed those claims.

However, the Institute of Radiation Physics said its findings were inconclusive and that only exhuming Arafat's remains could bring possible clarity. Palestinian officials have waffled on that matter—initially approving the exhumation and then saying the matter needed more study—only further fueling suspicions.

Arafat died in a French military hospital outside Paris in 2004 of what doctors have said was a massive stroke, but the Swiss lab's tests have renewed interest in his death. The findings were first broadcast by Arab satellite TV station Al-Jazeera, which approached the lab on behalf of Arafat's widow, Suha. She provided the lab with his clothing and other belongings.

AP

In this Aug. 13, 2003 file photo, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, with tears in his eyes, after he was informed of the death of his sister Yousra Abdel Raouf Al Kidwah at his compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

After the results were released, Suha Arafat filed a complaint asking for a murder investigation. Her lawyer, Pierre-Olivier Sur, confirmed on Tuesday that the prosecutor's office in Nanterre, the seat of the district where the military hospital is, has agreed to take up the matter. Next, a judge will be appointed to lead the inquiry.

Sur said in a statement that his client would not comment because she wanted to let the judge do his work.

"This is a good step forward, any step aimed at revealing the truth about Yasser Arafat's death is good," said Abdallah Basher, who heads a Palestinian medical committee investigating Arafat's death.

He added that experts from the Swiss lab would travel to the West Bank in the next few weeks to take samples from Arafat's remains—even though the matter of his exhumation is still in limbo. Arafat, who died at age 75, is buried in a mausoleum in the walled government compound where he spent the last three years of his life under Israeli siege.

Goal of united Syrian opposition still elusive

AZAZ, Syria (AP)—In the foreign halls of power, the strategy is clear: Syria's opposition should unite to present an alternative to Bashar Assad's rule—a step France's president says would lead to diplomatic recognition.

As a move toward unity, Syrian exiles from the main opposition Syrian National Council and other groups unveiled a blueprint Tuesday in the German capital of Berlin for transition to a democratic, transparent society free of religious and ethnic favoritism.

But rebels and civilians in the bomb-shattered Syrian town of Azaz near the Turkish border view such talk as hollow. They are deeply skeptical of all exiled leaders and believe what really matters is their fight on the ground to overthrow the regime.

"They have never come up with a united position that will save the people," said Fadi Hajji, 25, who had been camped out along the Syrian border with Turkey with his wife and two infant daughters for five days. "All they are good at is arguing. They don't represent anyone here and they don't help."

There was more bloodshed Tuesday as a car bomb ripped through a Damascus suburb, killing 12 people, according to the state news agency. Activists also said an airstrike in the town of Kfar Nabl killed at least 13 people as fighting raged nationwide.

With no end to the carnage in sight, French President Francois Hollande called on the Syrian opposition Monday to form a provisional government, saying France would recognize and support it.

Hollande's statement, believed to be the first of its kind, was quickly shot down by U.S. officials who said talk of a provisional government was premature given the deep divisions within the opposition movement.

The head of the main Syrian opposition group, the Syrian National Council, criticized the U.S. stand, saying that efforts were under way to forge a united front but that the process takes time—especially in the midst of a raging civil war.

WORLD BRIEFS

Argentine leader could face criminal fraud probe

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez could be in legal trouble. A federal prosecutor has found grounds for a criminal fraud investigation of the president along with her central bank chief, top tax collector and commerce secretary.

Argentine presidents face formal legal complaints all the time but rarely do they get this far. On Tuesday, prosecutor Carlos Stornelli said evidence justifies a formal criminal investigation based on complaints filed by an opposition lawmaker over the president's use of emergency decree powers to use money from Argentina's central bank reserves to pay off foreign debt. Legislator Elisa Carrio says bondholders benefited but the Argentine people were defrauded.

Egypt leader said to reach out to Sinai radicals

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Islamist president is using former jihadists to mediate with radical Islamists in Sinai, trying to ensure a halt in militant attacks in return for a stop in a military offensive in the lawless peninsula, participants in the talks say. The move marks a dramatic change from the iron fist policy of heavy crackdowns and waves of arrests under ousted leader Hosni Mubarak, which critics say only fueled support for militancy among Sinai's Bedouin population by subjecting them to torture and other abuses. But the dialogue and any possible truce could raise concerns in neighboring Israel, which has been targeted in cross-border militant attacks and has urged Egypt to stamp out the groups.

Focus

A youthful populace helps make PH an economic bright spot in Asia

By FLOYD WHALEY
NY TIMES

MANILA—In the upscale business district of Manila, a midweek crowd spills out into the street. The New York-themed Borough restaurant is pulsating to the beat of a Bon Jovi song, while young, hip Filipinos take shots of tequila from a passing tray and sing in unison.

A company support center in Makati City, Philippines. Last year, the Philippines surpassed India as the world's leading provider of voice-based outsourcing services.

"Whoa-oh, we're halfway there!" the crowd sings. "Whoa-oh, livin' on a prayer!"

The revelers have reason to celebrate. Times are pretty good in the Philippines if you are young, skilled and live in the city. Young urban workers are helping to give the country its brightest prospects in decades, economists say.

With $70 billion in reserves and lower interest payments on its debt after recent credit rating upgrades, the Philippines pledged $1 billion to the International Monetary Fund to help shore up the struggling economies of Europe.

"This is the same rescue fund that saved the Philippines when our country was in deep financial trouble in the early '80s," said Representative Mel Senen Sarmiento, a congressman from Western Samar.

The Philippines has certainly had a steady flow of positive economic news recently. On July 4, Standard & Poor's raised the country's debt rating to just below investment grade, the highest rating for the country since 2003 and equivalent to that of Indonesia.

The Philippines is the 44th-largest economy in the world today, according to HSBC estimates. But if current trends hold, it can leap to the No. 16 spot by 2050. The Philippine stock market, one of the best performers in the region, closed at a record high after the recent S.& P. rating upgrade, and the country's currency, the peso, reached a four-year high against the dollar at about the same time.

NEW YORK TIMES
A company support center in Makati City, Philippines. Last year, the Philippines surpassed India as the world's leading provider of voice-based outsourcing services.

The gross domestic product of the Philippines grew 6.4 percent in the first quarter, according to the country's central bank, outperforming all other growth rates in the region except China's. Economists expect similarly strong growth in the second quarter.

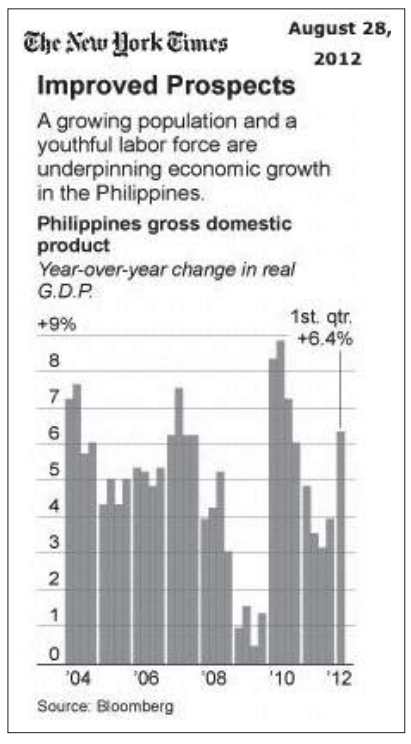
"We have made a very bold forecast for the Philippines, but I think justifiably so," said Frederic Neumann, a senior economist at HSBC in Hong Kong.

A high population growth rate, long considered a hindrance to prosperity, is now often seen as a driving force for economic growth. About 61 percent of the population in the Philippines is of working age, between 15 and 64. That figure is expected to continue increasing, which is not the case for many of its Asian neighbors, whose populations are aging.

"There are a number of countries in Asia that will see their working-age populations decline in the coming years," Mr. Neumann said. "The Philippines stands out as the youngest population. As other countries see their labor costs go up, the Philippines will remain competitive due to the sheer abundance of workers joining the labor force."

Many of those workers are feeding the country's robust outsourcing industry. The Philippines, where English is widely spoken, surpassed India last year as the world's leading provider of voice-based outsourcing services like customer service call centers.

According to the country's Board of Investments, offshore call centers employed 683,000 Filipinos in 2011 and generated about $11 billion in revenue, a 24 percent increase from the previous year. The government is seeking to expand the industry and has said it hopes it will generate $25 billion in revenue by 2016.



The Philippines' growing prosperity has also been driven by the 9.5 million Filipinos—almost 10 percent of the population—who work outside the country and who sent home about $20 billion in 2011. That is up from $7.5 billion in 2003.

Trinh D. Nguyen, an economist with HSBC in Hong Kong, said the Philippines had benefited from an increase in government efficiency and revenue collection, as well as aggressive actions to address corruption, like the impeachment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court and the arrest of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on suspicion of accepting kickbacks and of misusing government lottery money.

"It is not only short-term growth that draws investors to the Philippines," Ms. Nguyen said. "The fundamentals are there."

But there are also real weaknesses in the country. Recent flooding, which by some estimates submerged 50 percent of Manila, illustrates a shortage of modern infrastructure that makes the Philippines highly vulnerable to disasters.

"The Philippines is hit with several deadly and devastating natural disasters every year," Ms. Nguyen said.

But government officials have said that the recent flooding might actually help economic growth, because reconstruction will require an increase in public spending and the country will have to put into place programs to make it more resistant to the effects of natural disasters.

Another hurdle is the fact that the Philippines has traditionally underexploited its natural resources. The government estimates that there are 21.5 billion tons of metal deposits in the country, including large deposits of nickel, iron, copper and gold. But they have never been a significant driver of economic growth because extraction has been mismanaged, Mr. Neumann said.

In the shorter term, there are concerns that the country's newfound prosperity has not sufficiently eradicated poverty.

Other countries in the region, most notably China and Japan, but also Thailand and Vietnam, have successfully developed export-driven manufacturing, bringing millions of people out of poverty and increasing the size of their middle classes. Manufacturing typically draws workers away from agriculture, which pays less. But many of the large foreign companies that financed such transitions to manufacturing in Asia have avoided the Philippines because of periods of political instability.

The service sector—including the young call center workers who were recently reveling in Manila—are helping drive an economic boom in the cities.

But that type of outsourcing still provides only about 1 percent of jobs in the country, according to data from the Asian Development Bank. And the strong sector does not create jobs accessible to farmers or to millions of other Filipinos in rural areas who seek a way out of poverty.

"While the Philippines' business process outsourcing industry has grown impressively, it still employs a very small portion of the country's work force," noted Rajat M. Nag, a managing director of the Asian Development Bank. "It needs to aggressively develop its manufacturing sector to create more jobs."

On Emerald Avenue in the Ortigas business district of Manila, where hundreds of call center workers pour out of skyscrapers to gossip and smoke, Mika Santos, 18, does not have much to say about the national economy. But she is very happy with her own situation.

After completing a two-year information technology course and passing an exam in English proficiency, she started handling customer service calls for a United States mobile phone company. She earns a comparatively high salary for an entry-level job, and her employer offers incentive bonuses, free meals and shuttle service.

Had she been born a generation earlier, she would most likely have worked as a low-income farmer or gone overseas to find work. "My parents didn't have any opportunity like this," she said.

Environment

Conservationists alarmed by sheep flown to Maui

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—A Maui pilot has pleaded guilty to loading deer on helicopters and flying them from Maui and the Big Island, offering a glimpse into an alleged scheme by hunters to move deer and sheep between the Hawaiian Islands to establish new game populations for their sport.

Neither axis deer nor mouflon sheep—the specific animals involved—are native to Hawaii and don't have natural predators here. Their presence has damaged fragile native ecosystems and farms on the islands where they've become established.

The alleged animal smugglers took axis deer from Maui to the Big Island and dropped them off to roam. Officials say they took Big Island sheep to a Maui hunting ranch, but apparently didn't release them to the wild. Even so, the sheep's arrival on Maui for the first time deeply concerns conservationists who fear the animals could escape or give others the idea to bring over more.

"Some of our most endangered dry forest community on Maui would definitely be negatively impacted if sheep got established on Maui. They're already being impacted by the deer. The sheep would just be one more thing that was contributing to their demise," said Chuck Chimera, a botanist on Maui involved in efforts to fight invasive species.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Song said helicopter pilot Thomas Leroy Hauptman flew four axis deer, from Maui, where the animals were introduced in the 1950s, some 30 miles south to the Big Island where they're not established. He brought back about a dozen mouflon sheep with him to Maui from the Big Island.

Hauptman on Monday entered a plea of guilty in federal court to one misdemeanor count of illegally transporting wildlife, specifically axis deer, in 2009. He could be sentenced to up to a year in prison. His defense suggested that he receive probation and perform community service by flying 500 hours in his helicopter working for the group fighting to eradicate axis deer from the Big Island.

Hauptman's attorney didn't immediately return a telephone message seeking comment.

Song said Hauptman was the courier, and not the mastermind.

The owner of the Maui ranch where the sheep were taken, Jeffrey Scott Grundhauser, is scheduled to appear in court Thursday. He's charged with one misdemeanor count of selling wildlife—axis deer and mouflon sheep—without the proper permit. He also faces up to one year in prison.

Grundhauser's attorney didn't return a message seeking comment.

A September 2010 article in Hawaii Business magazine reported that Grundhauser was keeping his ranch afloat by taking 50 to 60 people on axis deer hunting tours on his property in Kula each year. Grundhauser charged $1,250 for two days of guide services, meals and the opportunity to kill up to three deer, the magazine said.

Song said federal officials are investigating other individuals in the case.

Axis deer are native to India. They don't have natural predators in Hawaii, so the population has exploded on islands where they've become established. A Maui County survey estimated the animals caused $1 million in damage for farmers, ranchers and resorts over the past two years.

Conservationists worry the species could wreak similar havoc on the Big Island if they became established. Officials believe about 100 axis deer live on the Big Island now because of efforts by the accused and others to bring deer there.

Mouflon sheep are a hybrid of two sheep types introduced to Hawaii: feral sheep and mouflon sheep native to Corsica and Sardinia off the coast of Italy.

The hybrid sheep are one reason the population of the endangered palila, a yellow-crowned songbird that lives on the upper slopes of Mauna Kea volcano on the Big Island, is crashing. A study by the U.S. Geological Survey in 2010 estimated only about 1,200 palila birds remained, down by 75 percent from 2003, when there were an estimated 4,400 of the birds.

Grazing sheep eat and trample on the mamane trees the birds rely on for food.

While the palila bird doesn't live on Maui, the island does have mamane and other native forests that would be vulnerable if the sheep became established on that island.

Earl Campbell, assistant field supervisor for U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said the introduction of sheep, deer and other hoofed animals to Hawaii is a significant factor for why Hawaii has so many species listed as endangered or threatened.

The state is home to 421 endangered and 16 threatened plants and animals, prompting some to call it "the endangered species capital of the world."

"I think it's very unfortunate that individuals can potentially cause such great environmental harm by moving these species between sites," Campbell said.

Trae Menard, the Nature Conservancy in Hawaii's forest conservation director, said introducing such animals to the islands damages the economy. That's because the animals tear through forests holding the water Hawaii relies on for drinking and farming.

"The more these animals are allowed to damage the forest, over time, the less water we're going to have," Menard said. "It's something to think about when we introduce these animals to new islands—that could be jeopardizing the future of our economy and our ability to sustain ourselves in the islands."

AP

This April 12, 2012 file photo provided by Forest and Kim Starr shows axis deer in upcountry Maui near Makawao, Hawaii. A helicopter pilot is pleading guilty to illegally flying deer from Maui to the Big Island, shedding light on a mystery that has been bewildering Hawaii: how did axis deer, an animal that can't swim across the ocean, get to another island?

Zimbabwe conservationists: wildlife threatened

By ANGUS SHAW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Tens of thousands of wild animals face annihilation in a wave of land takeovers in southeastern Zimbabwe by politicians of President Robert Mugabe's party, a consortium of wildlife ranchers charged Sunday.

The Save Valley Conservancy said thousands of people's livelihoods also are threatened in the 1,000 square mile (2,600 square kilometer) nature preserve and surrounding districts after hunting permits and land leases were granted to 25 leaders of the ZANU-PF party under a black empowerment program.

In Sunday newspaper advertisements, the consortium said "greedy individuals"—including a provincial governor and a Cabinet minister—wrongly claimed it was white dominated. The conservancy said Mugabe had used color as "a racial tool" to collapse world-renowned conservation efforts for short-term gain.

"When humans behave like animals, we destroy not only each other but generations to come," the group said.

The advertisements, the most strongly worded statements in the dispute so far, said politicians "want to destroy agreements and policies that have made Save the world leader in conservation management."

Save, pronounced Sa-veh in the local Ndebele language, is a habitat for elephant, zebra, giraffe, as well as the nation's second largest surviving population of endangered black rhinoceros. The area also supports an array of African antelope and most species of birds and small animals.

"We as humans can help stop using color as a racial tool to destroy the very people who are working for our common good," said the advertisements, under the heading: Animals don't see in color.

Several Western investors, the World Wildlife Fund and conservation groups in Europe and the United States have funded breeding and animal research programs in Save.

European Union officials in Zimbabwe have warned the Save land takeovers put at risk bilateral agreements on conservation between Zimbabwe and European countries ahead of the U.N. World Tourism Organization summit scheduled in the northwestern Zimbabwean resort of Victoria Falls next year.

The state Herald newspaper, controlled by Mugabe loyalists, reported Saturday that the new conservancy members linked to Mugabe's party fired the consortium's longtime chairman Basil Nyabdaza, an agricultural estates executive, and his deputy, rancher Willy Pabst.

A Mugabe party lawmaker was chosen to replace Nyabadza, the paper reported.

It also reported that Tourism Minister Walter Mzembi, seen as a moderate in Mugabe's party, said he was opposed to new conservancy members from the ZANU-PF party hierarchy in the southern Masvingo province being "imposed" on the existing grouping of conservation enterprises and small-scale ranch operators.

Mzembi said many of those party officials had already benefited from black empowerment programs since the often violent seizures of thousands of commercial farms began in 2000, The Herald reported.

Do Your Part on Labor Day

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Volunteering is quickly becoming an annual Labor Day tradition. It's a weekend where people and their friends and family can invest their time and talents into a host of worthwhile community projects. When you Do Your Part and volunteer locally, the payoff for your neighborhood, community, and city can be enormous.

Last year, the Do Your Part team put our waders on and spent Labor Day cleaning up the creek outside our office. We, along with our kids, were able to fish out everything from construction cones to aluminum cans. It took a few hours and some effort, but our work gave us all such a sense of satisfaction and job well done. This particular project was in conjunction with the Adopt-A-Stream program but that's just one of many organizations that make it easy for you to find an environmental project perfect for you, your family and friends.

The All For Good non-profit gives you a variety of environmentally focused volunteer opportunities online and it's easily searchable by ZIP code. You can also post information about events you are organizing. Idealist is another one of my favorite resources. It's easy to use database provides information on a wide range of opportunities right where you live and you can search by your specific skill set. You can also decide to do some dirty work by volunteering to plant trees. The Arbor Day Foundation has a database of volunteer opportunities listed by state. You can find out more on all these organizations and others at DoYourPart.com/Columns.

If you prefer to do your green volunteering indoors, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore are always in need of volunteers. ReStore accepts donated home goods -- everything from lighting to flooring, usable furniture and even new or used leftover materials from your home improvement projects. There are hundreds of locations across the country and their goal is to keep working items out of the landfill by putting them back to use. They also needs volunteers to help run the stores, do repairs, or even help with their website. Best of all, the money made through the sale of items always stays in the community to build Habitat For Humanity Homes.

When it comes to protecting the environment, we all have an important role to play. One way to Do Your Part is to seek out and participate in green volunteering opportunities right where you live. It's your chance to make this Labor Day a true labor of love.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of "Do Your Part," a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

Prosecutors reject burglary case against Lohan

LOS ANGELES (AP—Lindsay Lohan will not be prosecuted for a burglary at a home where she had been a houseguest, prosecutors determined Tuesday.

The decision came after Los Angeles police detectives presented a potential felony burglary case against the actress and two men who were reportedly at the Hollywood Hills home of a longtime acquaintance after several items went missing earlier this month.

Prosecutors cited lack of evidence to prove Lohan was involved in the thefts at the home. The items taken were described as keys, cash, sunglasses and a credit card holder. The homeowner, businessman Sam Magid, is an acquaintance of Lohan and later told authorities that he did not want to pursue a case.

"Lindsay is glad this matter has been cleared up so she can focus on her upcoming projects," her spokesman Steve Honig said in a statement Tuesday afternoon.

AP

This May 9, 2012 photo shows actress Lindsay Lohan at the A&E Networks 2012 Upfront at Lincoln Center in New York.

One of the men police interviewed was Lohan's assistant, who told authorities that he, the actress and another man went into the home early Aug. 18. Some items were taken, but the assistant refused to say who stole them, according to a memo rejecting the charges.

"We do not have sufficient evidence to prove this case beyond a reasonable doubt," the prosecution memo states. The document also noted that none of the missing items were found in the possession of Lohan or the two men who were believed to be at the house on the day of the burglary.

Los Angeles police say their investigation into the thefts will continue.

Lohan remains on probation for a 2011 case in which she pleaded no contest to taking a $2,500 necklace without permission. After completing a strict counseling and morgue cleanup duty program implemented by a judge, Lohan no longer has to report to a judge, but she faces jail time if she is charged with another crime.

In recent months she has resumed acting, portraying Elizabeth Taylor in a Lifetime movie about the actress' love affair with Richard Burton.

She also recently filmed "The Canyons," a film by "Less Than Zero" author Bret Easton Ellis. That film has Lohan playing opposite James Deen, who is best known as an adult film star with thousands of movies to his credit.

Police in Santa Monica, Calif., continue to investigate a crash involving Lohan and her assistant on the Pacific Coast Highway earlier this year. Lohan was on her way to the set of the Lifetime film "Liz and Dick" when she slammed into the back of a dump truck and had to be briefly hospitalized.

Kelly Osbourne gives fashion tips for real women

CHICAGO (AP)—Kelly Osbourne was a reality star, actress and musician before anyone took notice that she had a knack for style.

But lately the 27-year-old daughter of Ozzy Osbourne, currently with violet hair after stints of pink, lilac and gray, has earned the title of certified fashionista, dishing the designer dirt with Joan Rivers and co-hosts Giuliana Rancic and George Kotsiopoulos after major Hollywood red carpets on E! "Fashion Police." She also sat front row with Rivers at the Badgley Mischka show during the New York Fashion Week this past February.

"I'm in the process of branding, doing my own line. I will not just attach my name to something," Osbourne said. "I want to be a part of every aspect of it. I want to do everything on it and even down to like making sure I know where the clothes or items are being manufactured."

AP

Cable TV star Kelly Osbourne prepares to meet fans at the launch of the Magnificent Mile Shopping Festival on Friday, Aug. 24, 2012 in Chicago.

Now she's being tapped to kick off fashion-fueled events too, like this month's The Magnificent Mile Shopping Festival along Chicago's Michigan Avenue. While there Osbourne shared three things she learned walking the red carpet that she considers top everyday tips for real women:

■ Spray tans: "It just gives you that golden glow, a bit of bronze, like you've been kissed by the sun," Osbourne said. "It makes you look slimmer and it makes you feel healthier. I always do that. I hate that I don't have one now."

■ Flatter that figure: "Even if you're a skinny girl, Spanx are a must," Osbourne said, name-checking the shaping undergarments have become a red-carpet staple for women. "Nobody wants to see your belly button through your dress."

■ Pamper your feet: "Always pack a pair of ballet flats in your handbag because by the end of the night your feet are killing you. You want to keep going but you can't. I can't tell you how many times I've had to go home early because my feet hurt and I haven't had a pair of shoes to change into. Don't let your footwear ruin your good time," she said.

And for those who must know what Osbourne was wearing in Chicago to meet with reporters last week: A long, flowing short-sleeved black dress with a rainbow leaf print by Issa (a British label that Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, has helped popularize) and a ring with a large purple stone and a jeweled leaf by Chanel.

News networks stay live overnight to cover Isaac

NEW YORK (AP)—Some television news networks are planning to stay on live overnight to follow Hurricane Isaac and its impact on the Gulf Coast.

CNN, Fox News Channel and The Weather Channel said Tuesday they will stay with storm coverage all night. CNN and Fox usually air reruns of prime-time shows in the wee hours.

MSNBC says it hasn't made a decision on staying live.

Anderson Cooper is leading CNN's coverage from New Orleans, with Shepard Smith on Fox. All the news networks have mixed news of the storm in with Republican National Convention coverage.

The convention is taking place in Tampa, Fla., after being delayed by nasty weather.

Forecasters say the slow-moving storm could dump prodigious amounts of rain on the New Orleans area.

LL Cool J burglary suspect pleads not guilty

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man accused of breaking into LL Cool J's home has pleaded not guilty to a felony burglary charge.

Jonathan E. Kirby appeared in a Los Angeles courtroom Tuesday morning and entered the plea.

Kirby was arrested after the actor-rapper subdued him in his home early Aug. 22, breaking the 56-year-old's jaw, nose and ribs in the process. He was later charged with felony residential burglary and faces 38 years to life in prison if convicted due to his lengthy criminal history.

LL Cool J, whose real name is James Todd Smith, and his family were unharmed during the break-in, and nothing was apparently taken from their home. He stars in the CBS series "NCIS: Los Angeles."

AP

This June 11, 2012 file photo shows LL Cool J at the premiere of the documentary film "A Death In The Family: The Show Must Go On" at the Leonard H. Goldenson Theatre in Los Angeles.

A district attorney's spokeswoman says Kirby's bail was set at $1.1 million.

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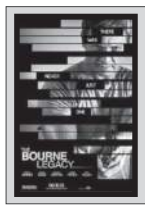
Step Up: Revolution
Thursday 4:30 7:30
Cast: Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick
Drama • Rated PG13
Synopsis
The latest movie in the Step Up franchise aims for a politicized message behind all the flashy moves, but it could do with a lot less plot and a lot more dancing. In Step Up Revolution, the Miami dance group "The Mob" takes to the streets (and other random locations) to perform intricately choreographed routines with their own DJ, a camera guy who uploads their videos to YouTube, and a graffiti artist who leaves their signature behind.

Madea's Witness Protection
Thursday 4:05 7:10
Cast: Eugene Levy, Denise Richards
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13
Synopsis
A crooked investor (Eugene Levy) is forced to go into the Witness Protection Program and ends up having to live with the brazen Madea in this comedy-drama that marks Tyler Perry's return to the beloved character. Romeo Miller and Denise Richards co-star.

Hit and Run
Thursday 4:20 7:20
Cast: Dax Shepard, Bradley Cooper
Action • Rated R

The Expendables 2
Thursday 4:10 7:05
Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R

Paranorman
Thursday 4:15 7:15
Cast: Susan Dudeck, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG



Bourne Legacy
Thursday 4:00 7:00
Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Total Recall
Thursday 4:25 7:25
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13
● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
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Madonna to US fans: Appreciate your freedom

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—As she kicked off the U.S. leg of her "MDNA Tour" in Philadelphia, Madonna said she was happy to party in the USA after touring Europe for three months.

The pop icon told the crowd Tuesday night they should "never forget how lucky you are to live where you live and to have the freedom that you have." She made the comments after talking about punk-rock group Pussy Riot's recent arrest in Moscow for the female band's lyrical content about Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Madonna said it was no coincidence that she opened her U.S. tour "where the Declaration of Independence was signed." Then the 53-year-old yelled: "We are in the land of democracy."

She also told the crowd: "Don't get fat and lazy and take that freedom for granted."

AP

Singer Madonna performs at the Wells Fargo Center on Tuesday Aug. 28, 2012 in Philadelphia.

Christina Aguilera: New album is a 'rebirth'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christina Aguilera is comparing her upcoming album to a "rebirth."

With more than a decade in the music business behind her, the album will be a culmination of "everything I've experienced up until this point," the 31-year-old pop star said in a recent interview.

"I've been through a lot since the release of my last album, being on ('The Voice'), having had a divorce," she said. "This is all sort of a free rebirth for me."

Aguilera and Jordan Bratman were married for five years before she filed for divorce in 2010. They have a 4-year-old son, Max.

Her new album's first single, "Your Body," was produced by Max Martin, who also produced Aguilera's last hit, the Maroon 5 smash "Moves Like Jagger," where she was featured.

"I'm embracing many different things, but it's all feel-good," she said of the album's material, including tracks that are "superexpressive" and fun, with moments that are "supervulnerable."

AP

This Nov. 20, 2011 file photo shows Christina Aguilera performing at the 39th Annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

The new album, which is without a release date or announced title, will feature fellow "Voice" coach Cee Lo Green and comes two years after Aguilera's lackluster "Bionic," which has sold 310,000 units, according to Nielsen SoundScan. That album featured electronic and dance-flavored tracks as well as pop ballads; it's her only album to not reach platinum status.

"In the fashion that I always like to put forth, it's very self-expressive and it's all heartfelt," Aguilera said of her new material.

Adam Levine, Maroon 5 frontman and a "Voice" coach, told Aguilera at a recent news conference for the show that he'd heard "Your Body" and added, "I hate you because it's so good."

Aguilera will perform the song on NBC's "The Voice" on Sept. 17. The show's third season starts Sept. 10.

Curiosity beams new will.i.am song from Mars

AP

Will.I.Am, with Black Eyed Peas, speaks at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Tuesday Aug. 28, 2012, in Pasadena, Calif.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Will.i.am has premiered his new single—from Mars.

The NASA rover Curiosity beamed to Earth his new song "Reach for the Stars" on Tuesday in the first music broadcast from another planet, to the delight of students who gathered at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to listen.

The song had been uploaded to the rover, which landed near the equator of Mars, and played back—a journey of some 700 million miles.

The musician, who promotes science and mathematics education, was among more than a dozen celebrities who were invited to JPL to watch Curiosity's landing earlier this month. Others included Wil Wheaton, Seth Green and Morgan Freeman.

In 2008, NASA beamed the Beatles' "Across the Universe" into the cosmos to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the song.

Adkins, Chenoweth return as hosts of 3rd ACAs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Trace Adkins and entertainer Kristin Chenoweth are returning as hosts of the American Country Awards.

This is the third year for the awards show. It will air this December on Fox from Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

Adkins calls Chenoweth a "firecracker comedienne" and says he is looking forward to cutting loose with her again. The pair hosted the show together last year.

Chenoweth says she plans to "pull out all the stops to make sure everyone has a good time."

Fans will be able to vote for the winners. Jason Aldean came out on top last year, taking home six awards including artist and album of the year. Nominees, performers and a show date will be announced soon.

AP

In this Feb. 11, 2012 file photo, actress Kristin Chenoweth attends the Herve Leger Fall 2012 show during Fashion Week in New York.

Wife can't stop man's habitual skirt-chasing

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 20 years younger than my husband. I am also attractive and sexually available to him. We have a great relationship except for one thing. I can't trust him! I have caught him emailing women he met at work, inviting our neighbor to go with him on a motorcycle ride and heard many stories about him asking women on dates.

But the worst was when I found out he was calling a woman every day and going to her house when I was at work. When I confronted him he said nothing sexual happened, but he moved out for a month.

Why does he feel he has to have other women? I really believe some men are cheaters no matter what. Oh, yeah -- I'm his fourth wife. He cheated on the others, too. How can I make him want only me?

CHEATED ON IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CHEATED ON: You can't. It may give you some comfort to know that the behavior you have described has nothing to do with you or your level of desirability. It is COMPULSIVE. You were naive to think if you married a serial cheater that he would be a faithful husband to you. The only person who can "make" him think differently is him, and before that can happen, he will have to realize he needs to change.

DEAR ABBY: I have been a single mother for seven years raising a wonderful 16-year-old daughter. She is an honor student, works part-time and is very mature. I am dating an older man, "Gary," who has grown children.

Gary feels my daughter is old enough to spend a couple of nights a week alone in our house, while I spend the night with him. His house is 14 miles away. I live in a safe neighborhood, but the idea of leaving her alone makes me very uncomfortable. This is causing a rift between Gary and me. He feels I am having a hard time "cutting the apron strings." Is he right?

SINGLE MOM IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR SINGLE MOM: Inform Gary you are not ready to "cut the apron strings" because you don't want your relationship with your daughter to turn to shreds. Although you say your daughter is mature, you are responsible for her safety and welfare until she turns 18. And that includes setting a good example for her.

DEAR ABBY: I'm expecting my first child in three months and I am definitely showing. I work in a retirement community, and every day one or more of the residents makes it his or her business to tell me I'm "just getting SOOO BIG!" and then asks if I'm sure "there aren't twins in there." I find their comments rude.

What's the appropriate response to people who make unwelcome comments about my size? I want to tell them that stating the obvious is unnecessary. They wouldn't comment about someone's size who wasn't pregnant, so why is it acceptable in my case?

EXPECTING IN MARYLAND

DEAR EXPECTING: Although you find the comments unwelcome, I'm sure the residents are only trying to be friendly and join in the excitement of another life coming into the world. They are not meant to be insulting and you shouldn't regard them in that light. All you should do is smile, pat your tummy and say, "Not according to the sonogram!" and move on.

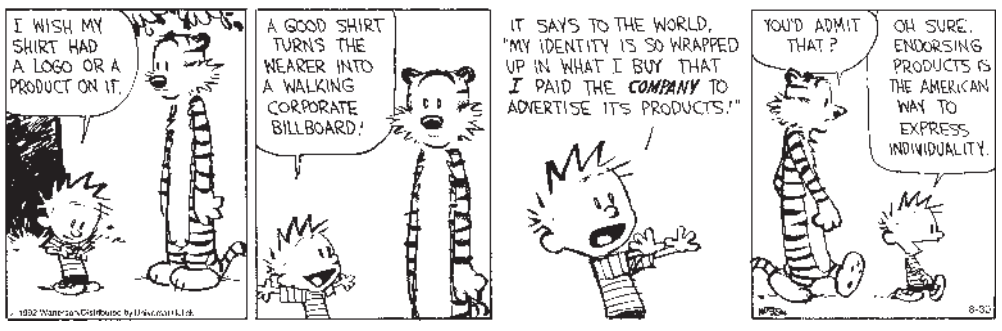
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

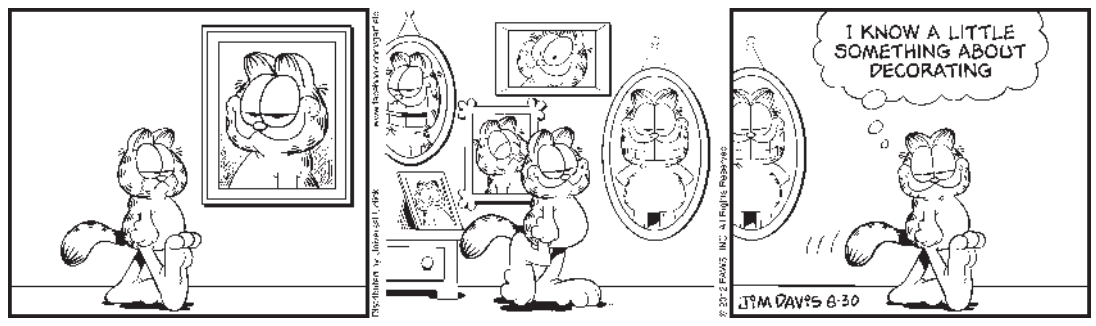
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I WISH MY SHIRT HAD A LOGO OR A PRODUCT ON IT.
A GOOD SHIRT TURNS THE WEARER INTO A WALKING CORPORATE BILLBOARD!
IT SAYS TO THE WORLD, "MY IDENTITY IS SO WRAPPED UP IN WHAT I BUY THAT I PAID THE COMPANY TO ADVERTISE ITS PRODUCTS!"
YOU'D ADMIT THAT?
OH SURE. ENDORSING PRODUCTS IS THE AMERICAN WAY TO EXPRESS INDIVIDUALITY.

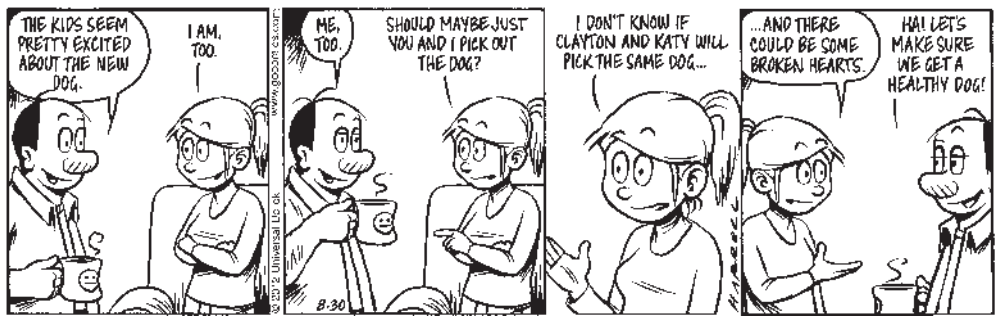
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



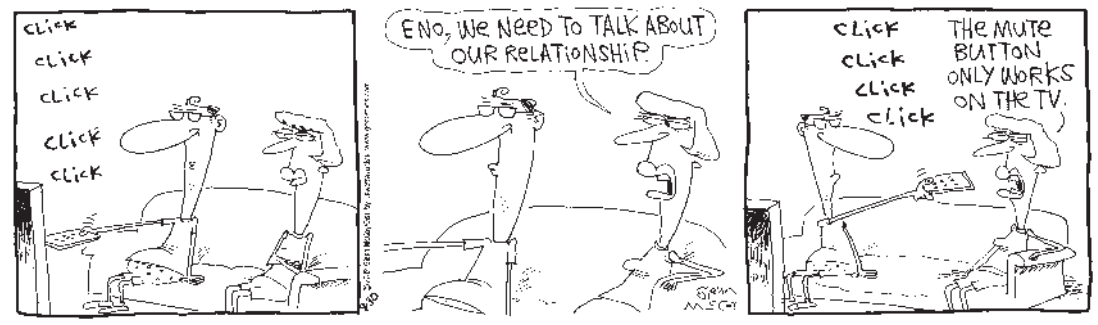
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE KIDS SEEM PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT THE NEW DOG.
I AM, TOO.
ME, TOO.
SHOULD MAYBE JUST YOU AND I PICK OUT THE DOG?
I DON'T KNOW IF CLAYTON AND KATY WILL PICK THE SAME DOG...
...AND THERE COULD BE SOME BROKEN HEARTS.
HA! LET'S MAKE SURE WE GET A HEALTHY DOG!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


click click click click click
ENO, We Need To TALK ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP
click click click click
THE MUTE BUTTON ONLY WORKS ON THE TV.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vim and vigor
4 Go by
8 Blueprint
12 Glass of NPR
13 Between jobs
14 Top-rated
15 Unreasonably suspicious
17 Deteriorates
18 Clumsy ship
19 Protective wall
21 Not quite boil
24 Greek consonants
25 Past
26 Two, in Tijuana
28 Sulked
32 First course, maybe
34 "Golden Girl" Arthur
36 Volcanic flow
37 First Little Pig's material
39 Blond shade
41 Prot. or Cath.
42 Disencumber
44 Expedition
46 Ideal
50 Tatter
51 — out (supplemented)
52 Toxic herbicide
56 Missile shelter
57 Ostriches' kin
58 Bristle
59 Black quartz
60 Longings
61 Still

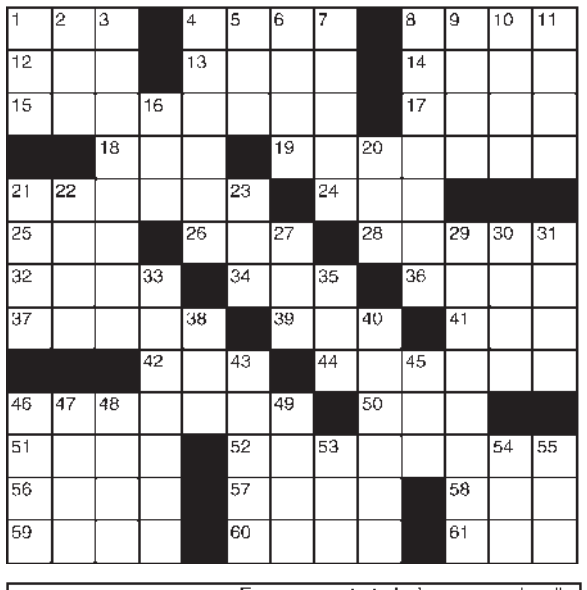
DOWN

1 Spot on a domino
2 Mound stat
3 Lover
4 Made a saw-tooth edge
5 Commotion
6 Error
7 Auto style
8 Sunshade
9 Aerobatic maneuver
10 Initial stake
11 Cardinals' home?
16 Branch
20 Pirates' quaff
21 Back talk
22 "— Rhythm"
23 Plagiarize
27 Red or Black
29 Landlocked country
30 Always
31 Limpwatch painter
33 Seeming contradiction
35 Donkey
38 Peruke
40 Bother repeatedly
43 Grumpy companion
45 Online help pg.
46 Mexican money
47 Related
48 Depend (on)
49 Appellation
53 Scoot
54 Really impress
55 Stick with a kick

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	K	A	■	N	U	T	S	■	O	B	O	E
P	I	C	■	E	S	A	U	■	H	O	I	L
A	L	E	■	W	A	T	E	R	F	A	L	L
S	T	R	A	Y	■	■	S	E	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	O	B	S	■	S	N	A	G	S
W	A	T	E	R	L	O	O	■	D	R	O	P
E	R	A	■	K	E	N	T	S	■	A	G	A
B	A	R	R	■	W	A	T	F	R	B	O	Y
B	L	E	E	P	■	R	O	X	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	E	A	■	■	L	E	A	V	E
W	A	T	E	R	G	A	T	E	■	L	I	S
A	R	I	A	■	R	I	O	S	■	M	A	P
D	E	N	T	■	A	L	P	S	■	S	L	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Roddick, 30; Lisa Ling, 39; Cameron Diaz, 40; Michael Chiklis, 49.

Happy Birthday: You may want to strive for expansion, but staying within a budget will also be required to avoid falling short of your goals. Conservative actions will bring solid results and enable you to enjoy life without added stress. Getting along and socializing will enhance your love life. Your numbers are 7, 16, 22, 27, 32, 35, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Share your feelings and your plans for the future. Someone you work alongside will let you know if you are not being realistic. Weigh the pros and cons, but base your decision on your abilities, not someone else's. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't give in to a bully when you are far smarter and more capable. Saying no will give you greater control and the feeling of power. Love is in the stars, and letting someone know how much you care will bring good results. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let responsibilities overwhelm you. Emotional confusion will set in regarding matters pertaining to home, family and your status. A change may be required, but it shouldn't cost you. Clear the air, but don't pay for someone else's mistake. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take a trip or sign up for a seminar, tradeshow or something that will inspire you to make some much-needed changes at home or at work. Love is in the stars, and more time spent with someone special will ease your stress. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Generosity will help connect you to people who have something to offer. A money deal with an unusual twist will entice you, but before you take part, find out how much input you will have in the outcome. A trip will pay off. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be honest about your abilities and what you have done in the past. Someone will be quick to remind you of some of your less favorable moments if you brag or try to control a situation that needs expertise you can't offer. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will be a magnet for information. Listen up; the knowledge you receive will help you diversify and excel. A change in a partnership is likely to occur. Don't let anyone bully you. Take control and make what you want very clear. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't trust anyone who promises unrealistic offerings or results. Make the changes that suit your needs and that will allow you to remain in control of your future prospects. Take competition by surprise by offering something unique. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Add a little excitement to your life. Communicating with people who share your enthusiasm and energy will lead to an opportunity to join a team or partnership on the rise. Make adjustments at home that suit your current lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Personal investments can pay off, but only if you stick to what works for you instead of being enticed to follow someone else. Emotional connections must not be allowed to interfere with your financial dealings. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A false sense of belonging will lead to personal problems. Try not to judge or to make assumptions that will cause friction with someone you love. You must secure your personal relationships by doing your best to make your home and family inviting. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get serious about your professional goals. Talk to anyone in a position to help you advance. Socializing and celebrating late in the day will help build your confidence and improve your personal life. Honesty will alleviate confusion. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, original and detailed. You are diverse and adaptable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	6				5		9	7
1		7	4			6		3
	4			1		8		
		8		9			1	
3		5			8	2		4
8	1		5				6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	4	5	2	6	1	8	9
8	1	6	7	9	3	4	2	5
2	5	9	4	1	8	6	3	7
1	4	2	6	3	9	7	5	8
5	9	8	2	7	4	3	6	1
6	7	3	1	8	5	2	9	4
9	8	7	3	4	2	5	1	6
3	6	1	8	5	7	9	4	2
4	2	5	9	6	1	8	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GYM INSTRUCTORS **Solution: 7 letters**

I	S	E	S	A	D	V	I	S	E	S	B	E	N	C
S	M	T	R	E	R	E	S	A	T	D	Q	O	A	P
U	E	P	U	O	S	U	I	E	T	U	I	R	D	H
P	P	W	R	D	C	I	T	F	I	T	D	U	F	Y
E	R	E	A	O	E	A	C	P	I	I	E	I	G	S
R	O	S	F	R	V	N	M	R	O	T	R	N	O	I
V	G	R	P	I	M	E	T	P	E	S	R	H	D	O
I	R	U	T	I	N	U	U	S	T	X	F	E	E	L
S	A	O	A	T	N	L	P	A	E	H	E	L	C	O
O	M	C	E	G	M	N	I	I	N	S	G	P	Ⓓ	G
R	O	A	R	O	O	D	I	H	L	A	S	I	Ⓐ	Y
U	C	O	N	T	I	Y	I	N	C	A	T	A	Ⓔ	N
H	U	A	C	H	I	E	V	E	G	A	T	O	Ⓛ	W
P	R	O	G	R	E	S	S	E	T	S	O	E	M	C
Y	E	T	R	A	I	N	E	R	E	T	A	C	S	Y

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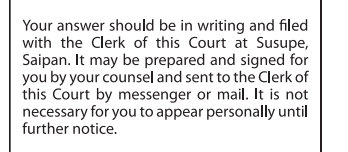

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0118**
-v-	]	
PIAO FENG SHAN and YUAN CHANG NU, Defendants.	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, PIAO FENG SHAN and YUAN CHANG NU:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 15th day of August, 2012:

/s/ Clerk of Court

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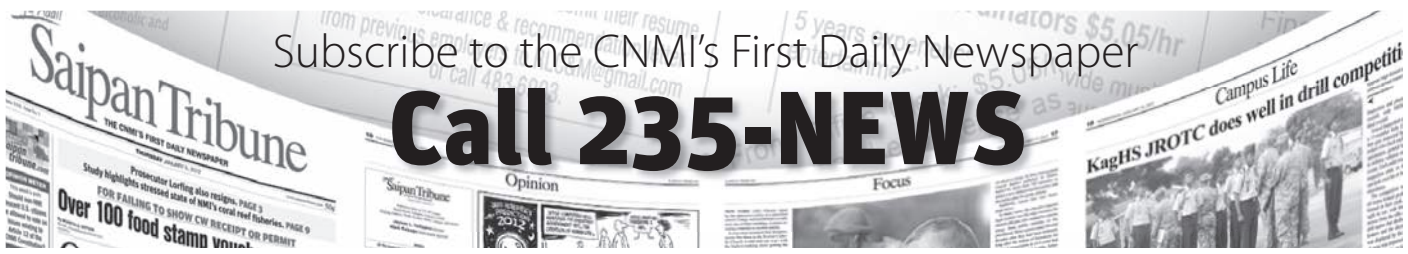

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Djokovic, Serena ease past foes at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—So, Novak Djokovic, tell us how you really felt about your first-round match at the U.S. Open on Tuesday night.

''I tried to analyze my game,'' Djokovic said, ''and my game was great from the start to the end.''

Well, then.

Pretty accurate assessment, actually.

Djokovic lost the opening game of his title defense at Flushing Meadows, and then reeled off 18 of the next 19 games, completely controlling every aspect of a 6-1, 6-0, 6-1 victory over 69th-ranked Paolo Lorenzi of Italy.

All told, Djokovic put in 73 minutes of work under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium. If it could really be called work at all.

Of course, that was one of his objectives. Saving energy is key, because Djokovic wants to win seven consecutive matches over these two weeks so he can leave town with the sixth Grand Slam championship of his career.

''It's also important for me to try to be as economical with the time I spend on the court as possible, but obviously not underestimating any opponent,'' the Serb said. ''I played really focused, tried to get to the net, also. It was great, all in all.''

The second-seeded Djokovic won 79 of 114 points, hit seven aces and finished with a 32-10 edge in winners.

Lorenzi complained that he had a lot of trouble dealing with the swirling wind in the 23,000-seat arena, a lament heard often on Day 2 of the year's last major tournament.

Balls would zig when players thought they would zag. Shots hit with the wind at a player's back would fly much further than intended. Ball tosses on serves were difficult to calibrate just right.

''The wind swirled a lot, and I had problems. I couldn't enjoy myself,'' Lorenzi said.

And then he acknowledged: ''I don't think I would have had more chances if there wasn't any wind. But I might have had a little more fun.''

Truth was, Lorenzi's biggest impediment was Djokovic.

''It was very difficult to get into a point. If I tried to go forward, he passed very well. When I tried to play defense at the baseline, he missed very little. He always got the ball back,'' Lorenzi said. ''And so I never had anything to go on. And when he got going with his winners, he caused me other problems.''

Lorenzi dropped 12 games in a row until finally ending that string by winning the first game of the third set. He raised his hands, pretending to have captured much more than a single game, and the crowd responded with cheers.

That was it, though.

In other results, Andy Roddick's last match as a twentysomething would not be his last match at the 2012 U.S. Open was hardly in doubt Tuesday, especially whenever he was launching that intimidating, tough-to-handle serve of his.

To close the first set: ace at 141 mph.

To close the second: ace at 134 mph.

To close the third: ace at 127 mph.

Yes, even as Roddick's 30th birthday approaches on Thursday, even as his body has succumbed to injury after injury, that serve is pretty much still the same as it ever was. Now that he more frequently faces opponents who grew up cheering for him - such as 21-year-old qualifier Rhyne Williams of Knoxville, Tenn., the foil for Tuesday's 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory - Roddick knows more than ever he needs to rely on the best thing he's got, and 20 aces helped this time.

In the women's field, leave it to Serena Williams to come up with a creative way to judge just how much the air was whipping around at the U.S. Open on Tuesday night.

''I usually gauge the wind by my hair,'' Williams said. ''If it's really going forward, I'm thinking, 'It's really windy.'''

That it was. It just didn't bother Williams too much in a 6-1, 6-1 victory over 75th-ranked CoCo Vandeweghe of the U.S. in the first round at Flushing Meadows.

Williams needed less than an hour to move into the second round of a tournament she won in 1999, 2002 and 2008.

Coming off titles at Wimbledon and the London Olympics, Williams looked sharp against Vandeweghe, committing only nine unforced errors despite the tricky conditions.

''I didn't hit anything too hard, because the ball - I wouldn't have known where it was going to go,'' Williams said.

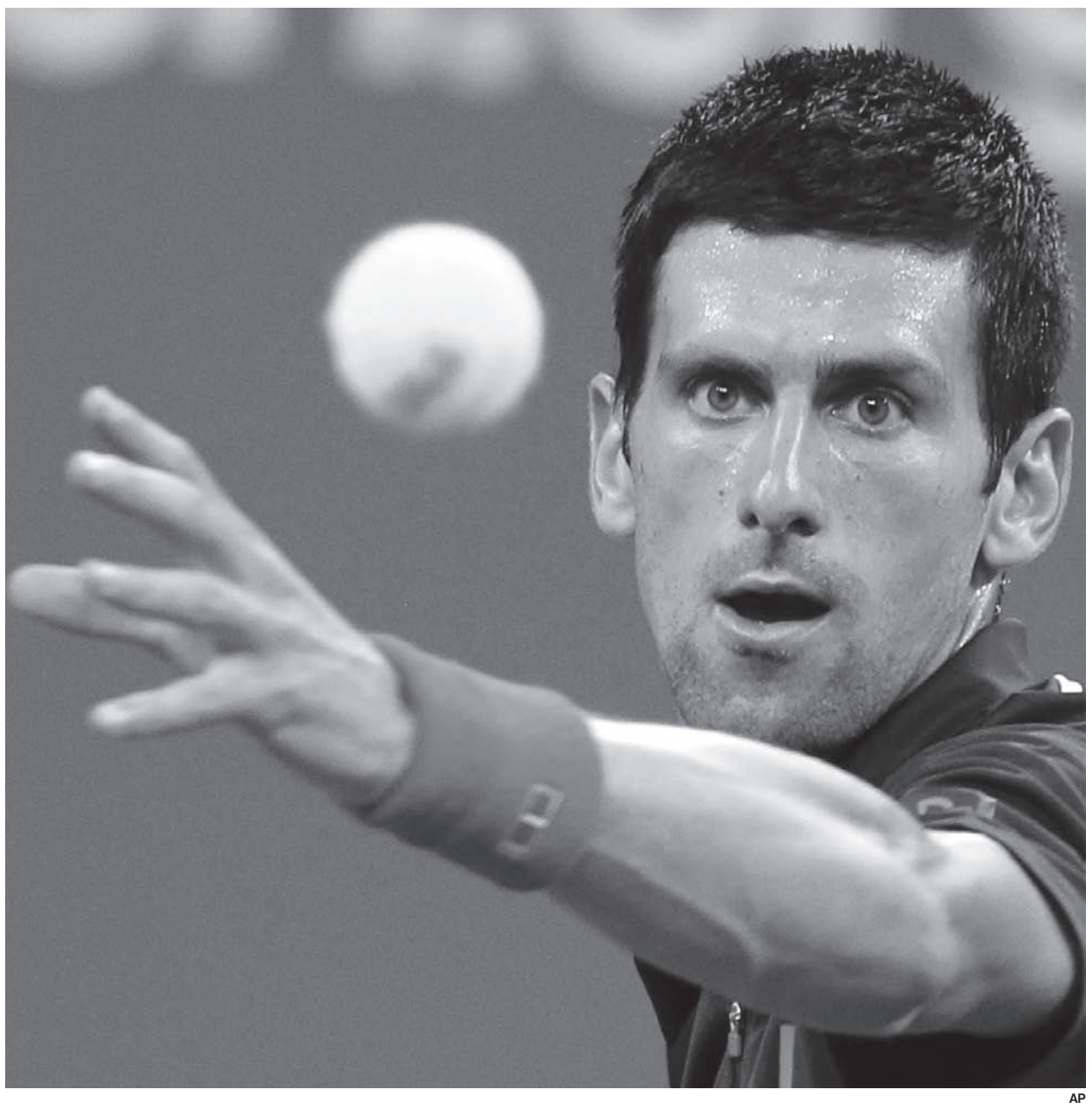
In search of her 15th Grand Slam title, Williams improved to 48-1 in first-round matches at major tournaments. The only loss was at this year's French Open.

During her on-court interview after Tuesday's match, she gave a shout-out to another Olympic gold medalist, New York Knicks star Carmelo Anthony, who was in the stands cheering for Williams.

Vandeweghe, who fell 7-5, 6-3 to Williams in the Bank of the West Classic final earlier this summer, had trouble dealing with her toss in the blustery wind. She finished with six double-faults and only held serve once in seven tries.

Three of the day's most notable upsets were turned in by young, up-and-coming Americans. In singles, 19-year-old Sloane Stephens, who is ranked 44th, eliminated 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 6-3, 6-4. And in doubles, 19-year-old Jack Sock and 22-year-old Steve Johnson knocked out the top-seeded team of Max Mirnyi of Belarus and Daniel Nestor of Canada 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2, while brothers Ryan and Christian Harrison defeated last year's runners-up, Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Marcin Matkowski of Poland 7-6 (3), 2-6, 7-6 (7).

One other exit of significance: 2009 runner-up Caroline Wozniacki, who began the year ranked No. 1 but has struggled and was seeded eighth, lost 6-2, 6-2 against 96th-ranked Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania. Bothered by a bad right knee, Wozniacki also lost in the first round at Wimbledon.



AP

Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, returns a shot to Paolo Lorenzi, of Italy, during a match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012, in New York.

Poulter, Colsaerts join European Ryder Cup team

GLENEAGLES, Scotland (AP)— European Ryder Cup captain Jose Maria Olazabal said Monday that picking Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium—along with England's Ian Poulter—as his wild-card selections is not a gamble.

The 32-year-old Poulter will be competing in his fourth Ryder Cup since making his debut in 2004 while Colsaerts will be playing in his first and is the only rookie on Olazabal's squad.

"It is true Nicolas is going to be the only rookie on the team but we do have an experienced team," said Olazabal. "Out of the 12 players, 11 have played Ryder Cup. They have proven they can handle that pressure. They have the experience so we do have a very solid team.

"He's had a very solid season and on top of that he has made the extra effort trying to make the team, and he really showed me that he wanted to be part of that team and that is the reason I chose him."

Colsaerts was 12th in the European Ryder Cup table, two places outside of automatic qualification. His commitment to the team was evident when he played in the Wyndham Championship in North Carolina and then crossed the Atlantic to tee up in the Johnnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles last weekend in an attempt to secure qualification.

Colsaerts, who was staying with friends in a nearby village, said he got a call from Olazabal late Sunday night when the Spaniard invited him to attend the Gleneagles Hotel where he was staying ahead of the announcement.

He will be the first Belgium-born player to compete in the 85-year history of the competition.

"Well I know my phone has not stopped ringing but I do hope this is going to put golf in a better position in (Belgian) people's minds, people's heads," he said. "Golf is not a very popular sport back home, and not much as it is over here in Scotland.

"I would like to think that some of the young guys are going to go play tournaments abroad and feel like they are part of a bit of the golfing culture, just because I've finally put the Belgian flag on the map."

For Poulter, it is the second time he has needed a wild-card selection after also getting one in 2008.

Poulter also learned of his selection late on Sunday night after finishing in a share of 36th place in The Barclays tournament in New York.

"I am just thrilled to get the call last night from Jose which was a great moment, and I'm going to be thrilled to, again, pour some passion over the holes at Medinah and I'll try my best," Poulter said.

United States captain Davis Love III will announce his four wild-card picks on Sept. 4 in New York.

The Ryder Cup is Sept. 28-30 at the Medinah Country Club in Chicago.

Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose, Paul Lawrie, Graeme McDowell, Francesco Molinari, Luke Donald, Lee Westwood, Sergio Garcia, Peter Hanson and Martin Kaymer also are on the European team.

Redskins release Graham Gano, sign Billy Cundiff

WASHINGTON (AP)—One day after he appeared to win the Washington Redskins kicking job, Graham Gano is out of work. His replacement is Billy Cundiff, who spent two days unemployed after getting cut by the Baltimore Ravens.

Gano was released and Cundiff signed by the Redskins, who announced the move on Tuesday.

It was an abrupt development in the Redskins kicking carousel. Gano stood at this locker feeling excited and looking forward to the season Monday after his lone competition in training camp, Neil Rackers, was sent packing when the team made its first round of cuts.

But Gano's numbers have never been impressive. He has made 73.8 percent of his field goal attempts since joining the Redskins (No. 25 in the AP Pro32) late in the 2009 season, the second-worst percentage in the league over the last three seasons.

Gano, 25, missed 11 attempts in 2010, tied for most in the NFL. He had a league-high 10 misses last season, although five of those were blocked. He beat out Rackers without attempting a field goal in the Redskins' preseason games, coming out ahead based on his performance during practice.

Cundiff's statistics are only marginally better. The 32-year-old kicker has a career field goal percentage of 76.7 with the Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints, Cleveland Browns and Baltimore. He joined the Ravens during the 2009 season and went to the Pro Bowl season in 2010, going 26 for 29, but last season he missed a potential game-tying, 32-yarder against the New England Patriots in the waning seconds of the AFC title game.

Cundiff also has limited range. He is 5 for 19 over his career from 50-plus yards, including just 1 for 6 last season. He was cut Sunday by the Ravens, who opted to go with rookie Justin Tucker.

Marlins stun slumping Nationals, Strasburg

MIAMI (AP)—Pitching in air conditioning, Stephen Strasburg nonetheless soaked his jersey with perspiration after only a couple of innings.

The first-place Washington Nationals have reason to start sweating.

Strasburg gave up a career-high seven runs in five innings Tuesday night and the Nationals' losing streak reached five games when they were beaten by Ricky Nolasco and the last-place Miami Marlins 9-0.

''I'm sure there's not a pitcher in the history of baseball who has gone out there and done it every single time,'' Strasburg said. ''I struggled for pretty much the whole game. It's a learning experience for me.''

Nolasco (10-12) allowed five hits in his third career shutout and eighth complete game. The shutout was the first for the Marlins at their new ballpark.

The Nationals began the night with baseball's best record, but they're saddled with a losing streak that matches their season high.

''We've played really good 90 percent of the year,'' manager Davey Johnson said. ''We're in a rough spot here. That makes the metal hotter. The tougher it gets, the stronger you get, so we'll be fine.

AP

Miami Marlins' Ricky Nolasco delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012, in Miami.

Rockies 8, Dodgers 4

In Denver, the Los Angeles Dodgers lost a game and some ground in the NL West.

They hope that's the extent of the damage.

Wilin Rosario homered among three hits and drove in three runs, Tyler Chatwood pitched five effective innings and the Colorado Rockies beat the Dodgers, 8-4.

Reds 5, Diamondbacks

In Phoenix, Johnny Cueto leads the majors in wins and has his sights set even higher.

Cueto scattered four hits over seven innings for his 17th victory and the Cincinnati Reds beat the slumping Arizona Diamondbacks, 5-2.

''All I can promise is to try and keep going because I want to win 20 games,'' Cueto said through a translator.

Giants 3, Astros 2

In Houston, the San Francisco Giants couldn't get much going offensively on Tuesday night, so manager Bruce Bochy went to his bench with the game on the line in the ninth inning.

Pinch-hitters Joaquin Arias and Hector Sanchez came through for the Giants, both driving in runs to help San Francisco rally for a 3-2 win over the Houston Astros.

Brewers 5, Cubs

In Chicago, Jeff Bianchi added another souvenir to his trophy case, and this one caught his manager by surprise.

Bianchi hit a three-run shot for his first big league homer, leading the Milwaukee Brewers to a 4-1 win over the Chicago Cubs.

Bianchi went deep off Travis Wood (4-11) with two outs in the second for Milwaukee.

Mets 9, Phillies 5

In Philadelphia, Kelly Shoppach is fitting in nicely with his new team.

Ike Davis hit a tiebreaking double during a four-run 10th inning, Shoppach had a two-run homer and the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 9-5, for their third straight victory.

Shoppach hit a tying double in the eighth and then connected off B.J. Rosenberg (0-2) to finish a triple shy of the cycle.

Pirates 9, Cardinals 0

In Pittsburgh, Josh Harrison provided the pop. Pedro Alvarez provided the power. The reeling Pittsburgh Pirates eagerly accepted both.

Alvarez homered twice and drove in four runs after Harrison barreled into St. Louis catcher Jadier Molina and the Pirates rolled to a 9-0 victory over the Cardinals.

While Alvarez crushed his 24th and 25th home runs of the season, it was Harrison's violent collision at home plate with Molina in the second inning that sent the message the struggling Pirates aren't quite finished just yet.

Braves 2, Padres 0

In San Diego, Kris Medlen has more than proved he belongs in the Atlanta Braves' rotation.

Medlen extended his scoreless streak to 28 1-3 innings by holding San Diego to five singles over eight innings and leading the Atlanta Braves to a 2-0 victory.

Angels 6, Red Sox 5

In Anaheim, Mike Trout and Torii Hunter drove in runs in the ninth inning against beleaguered Boston closer Alfredo Aceves, and the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a 6-5 victory over the Red Sox.

Trout drove in the tying run with a broken-bat single and Hunter ended it with a long sacrifice fly to center, scoring Alberto Callaspo.

Rangers 1, Rays 0

In Arlington, Yu Darvish enjoyed one of his best performances of the season to help the high-flying Texas Rangers edge out the Tampa Bay Rays, 1-0, as the home team recorded a sixth win in seven games.

The Japanese rookie right-hander blew away Tampa Bay with 10 strikeouts in seven scoreless innings to put his mid-season troubles behind him and condemn the Rays (70-59) to a fourth straight defeat.

Royals 9, Tigers 8

In Kansas City, Mike Moustakas had a difficult road trip, then had to face Justin Verlander when the Kansas City Royals kicked off a 10-game homestand.

Not exactly a recipe for a big performance, but the young slugger sure delivered.

Moustakas had three hits and three RBIs and the Royals roughed up Verlander in a 9-8 victory over the Detroit Tigers.

Orioles 6, White Sox 0

In Baltimore, it's hard to determine which was more impressive: Chris Tillman's domination of the White Sox, or the how the Baltimore Orioles mistreated Chicago ace Chris Sale.

Tillman allowed one hit over seven innings, Nick Markakis drove in three runs and Baltimore cruised to a 6-0 victory to extend its winning streak to four.

Yankees 2, Blue Jays 1

In New York, when Mariano talks, Rafael Soriano listens.

The career saves leader was watching when his fill-in gave up a three-run homer in the ninth inning of the Yankees' extra-inning loss Monday night and had some thoughts. So the injured star sought out Soriano when he visited the clubhouse Tuesday afternoon and gave him some advice.

Soriano stuck to the new plan and struck out two in the ninth, closing out a fine home start for Phil Hughes that sent New York to a 2-1 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Mariners 5, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Seattle's late-summer surge has been fueled, naturally, by strong starting pitching. Even the offense has been perking up. After so many rough seasons, August has been a pleasant month for these Mariners.

Dustin Ackley hit a three-run homer, Hisashi Iwakuma was hard to hit and the Mariners beat the stumbling Minnesota Twins, 5-2.

Athletics 7, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Tommy Milone and the entire Oakland pitching staff have plenty of nothing as far as the Cleveland Indians are concerned.

The Athletics continued to pile up zeroes as Milone and three relievers shut out Cleveland for the third straight time, beating the Indians, 7-0.

Cubs shortstop Castro gets 7-year deal

CHICAGO (AP)—Starlin Castro was barely out of his teens when he made his big league debut. Now it looks as though he'll still be donning Cubbie blue when he hits his 30s.

The Chicago Cubs and their young shortstop agreed to a seven-year contract with a club option for 2020, the team said Tuesday. The deal could keep Castro in Chicago until after his 30th birthday.

''Only the most talented players get to the big leagues at 20,'' said Cubs general manger Jed Hoyer. ''I'm sitting here with a 22-year-old veteran right now. That was a big part of our decision.

''The way it was looking, Starlin was going to be a free agent way too early. He's a big part of our future. We have four years of control with him after this year. By doing this deal, we now have eight.''

Castro is a two-time All-Star in just his second full major league season, and he led the National League in hits with 207 last season. Since making his major league debut on May 7, 2010, Castro has more hits than any player in the NL with 486.

''I want to be here for a long time and winning,'' Castro said. ''My family (will) change, but nothing (will) change for myself. (The money is) not going to stop me from working hard every day on the field.''

Castro was originally signed by the Cubs as a non-drafted free agent on Oct. 25, 2006. Terms of the new deal were not released by the team, but published reports have placed the guaranteed money at $60 million over the duration of the extension, a figure Castro was asked about in Tuesday's press conference.

''It's big, especially for my family, coming from very poor people,'' Castro said. ''Now my family is going to be better, their lives changing.''

Castro motioned toward his father, who was standing nearby, and said, ''My dad wanted me to play baseball every time. He got me here.''

While Castro's raw talent has always been evident, things have not always gone smoothly for a player who skirted with trouble off the field and suffered well-publicized mental lapses on it. He was accused of sexual assault following the 2011 season, though Cook County prosecutors declined to press charges, citing insufficient evidence.

Castro's on-field focus has also been questioned, most notably during a nationally-televised game last season when cameras captured him with his back to the plate as a pitch was being delivered.

Despite the occasional bouts with immaturity, the Cubs feel Castro is going to be a foundation player for a club just beginning its rebuilding process under a new front office regime headed by vice president of baseball operations Theo Epstein and Hoyer.

''It's been fun getting to know Starlin as a person, but also watching him play every day,'' Hoyer said. ''Shortstop is a really hard position to fill in today's game, especially with someone who can provide it with offense.

''There is no question in my mind that he can play shortstop in the big leagues on a championship team.''

Castro whet the appetite of Cubs fans from the start, homering in his first career at-bat and setting a big league record with six RBIs in his debut. He was taken in by Cubs veteran Alfonso Soriano, a fellow Dominican who helped mentor Castro at the beginning of his career.

Try Luck reclaims top spot in Ladies league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Two-time Ladies division champion Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck moved back into solo first place after completion of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Summer/Fall Bud Light Dart League last week.

Tyr Luck pounced Joe's Steakhouse-Caboose Daffodils (13-47), 14-1, on the road to jump three games ahead of the pack with its 45-15 record.

In other results, Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Momes'I Mei (42-18) upset Es'y Kitchen's B-52 Shooters (34-26), 12-3, to move up into second place. SOS Bar & Grill's Wonder Women (31-29) maintained its grasp on the fourth spot with a 10-5 victory at home over Joe's Just Like Dat (24-36), while Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Man-Amigas (29-31) downed Oceanside's G-Side Shooters (22-38) in similar fashion, 10-5, also at home.

Notables include a 152 high-in by Try Luck's Rita Fitial and a 104 high-out by Momes'I Mei's Mary-Lois Blaluk.

In other standings, Oceanside Bar & Grill's Mafia and Triple Threat squads lead the A Tuesday B leagues, respectively.

Mafia defeated the Juvy Predators (20-31), 12-5, on the road at Sand's Bar to maintain its first place position in the A division with its 37-14. It leads sister squad Bud Brothers (38-30), who grinded out a 9-8 home win over SOS's Mx-blood Shooters (33-35).

SOS's 101 Proofers (26-25) were on a bye this week, but still reside in third place.

In other results, the SOS Outlaws (24-27)) pulled off a strong 13-4 road victory over Bammy's Sabalu Boys (26-42).

Notables include a 130 high-in by Juvy Predators' Alfred Hocog and a high-out by 101 Proofers' Rolly Bemriso.

In the Tuesday B league, Triple Threat made it past third-ranked Naked Fish's Na'Gupu II (38-22), 9-6, on the road to stretch its lead to four games. Triple Threat holds a 43-17 record.

VFW Post 3457's Delubyo (39-21) edged Oceanside's Good Guyz (21-39), 8-7, at home and is seated comfortably in second place.

Meanwhile, fourth place SOS Dartaholiks (36-24) went into the Waterfront and downed the K-1 Scorpions (18-42), 10-5, and SOS's Seabridge 80 Proofers (32-28) overcame Oceanside's Wreckless Precision (13-47), 9-6, at home.

Notables include a high-in 140 by Triple Threat's Clifford Hamoy and a 100 high-out by George Medina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Jonny's Bar & Grilll's Try Luck, pictured in this recent file photo, walloped Joe's Steakhouse's Daffodils, 14-1, last week to reclaim first place in SEDA's Leadies league.

Fiesta beach soccer tourney this Saturday

Fiesta Resort & Spa's 3rd Annual Beach Soccer Tournament kicks off this Saturda, starting at 9am.

Interested participants can still register early or during the day of the competition at 7am. Entrance fee is $10 per player and at least five players are required on each team.

Saturday's event is an open tournament with no co-ed or age stipulations about who can be on a team. However youth players under the age of 14 are required to have permission from a parent. Parents of youth players are required to be present during registration.

Entrance fee includes tickets for food and beverages to be used during the competition, and water will be provided for players. Other food and drink items will also be available for sale.

The games will be played in a 5-on-5-format.

A raffle drawing will also take place with special prizes provided by major sponsors Pacific Trading Company, Tan Siu Foundation, Docomo Pacific, Rota Water and Kanoa Resort.

The champion team will receive $300 cash and a set of individual trophies, while the runner-up gets $200 and $100 goes to the third placer. The runners-up will also receive a team trophy. Other awards, such as team sportsmanship, will also be handed at the end of the tournament.

For more information contact, Fiesta's Christy Villaflor at 234-7171 ext. 1508. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

XTERRA

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a few meters behind Kim, who was then attacked by the bear and sustained bites on his legs and arms.

"We met with the police after the incident. The attack was on the news all night. It was crazy," said Carey, who also saw a cub coming toward her before climbing up to a tree.

After the bear attack incident, Carey said all bikers were mandated to bring bells on their way to the course and organizers also climbed up to the mountain to lit fireworks and drive away bears.

Once the course was secured, Carey and company headed to a lake for the 1.2-kilometer swim.

"We started at 12:10 pm. We swam 600m two times in a lake located 1400-meter high from sea level. I couldn't breath from cold and high altitude. I came out of the water with a lot of swimmers. I was 15th overall when I went to the swim-bike transition area," said Carey, who timed in at 19:18 in the swim leg.

The Saipan pro was more than two minutes ahead of Vanlandingham (21:46), but lost the lead in the dreaded bike leg.

"The MTB course here is real MTB. You can ask Jamie [Whitmore], Will [Kelsay], Renata [Bucher], and Shonny, who went through this course before. It was just scary and not fun because I have to run with the bike a lot of times. There were many stairs, river crossings, and scattered woods. Even Shonny and Will ran with their bikes a few times. And me? I ran more than a mile on the bike course," Carey said.

"But the weather was good that day, the course was dray, so I was a bit thankful. Shonny passed me around 7K and she said 'come with me.' I said no way, as if I try, I might get hurt or over push myself," she added.

By the time Carey completed the 25-km bike race, she was 10 minutes behind Vanlandingham. The Saipan pro submitted 2:00:05 in a crush-free bike leg against the 1:50:21 of Vanlandingham. The eventual champion's winning time ballooned to more than 15 minutes after clocking in at 1:02:01 in the 10-km off-road run versus the 1:07:32 of Carey.

"I came to T2 and started running. There were many climbs and my right leg was cramping at first climb with the rope," said Carey, who at that time had second thoughts if she could finish the race.

"I have to although my body was too exhausted. I expected to run slow, as I haven't been running for almost a month due to injury and I went to see a doctor here before the race. I remember the injury made me nervous the whole month as I kept asking myself if I can run," she said.

The run leg was two 5-meter laps on an up and downhill super steep course and each lap had four big climbs, according to Carey. At the last lap when Carey was about to climb up using a rope, both of her legs cramped, so she had to stop, stretch, and walk.

Carey went on to complete the race and was happy with her performance despite missing her fourth straight XTERRA Japan crown.

"I am so happy my bike time was the fastest, it was 10 minutes faster than last year," said Carey, who will return to Japan next year and aims to reclaim the championship.

"I would like to thank Shelly for taking care of my legs and IT&E, Brubu, Gold's Gym, and Rommy of Bike Pro for supporting me. To all my Saipan friends and supporters, thank you very much," she added.

DOCOMO

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Cruz, Senior Flight's Jimmy Whang, and Ladies Flight's Jeong Yoon Kim.

A 2012 Ford Fiesta, a 2013 Mazda 3, and $10,000 cash are all up for grabs in the hole-in-one contests. The two brand new cars are from Joeten Motors and Triple J Motors, while Bank of Hawaii is the sponsor of the hole-in-one cash prize.

In addition, over $100,000 in raffle prizes from over 20 other sponsors will also be handed out this weekend.

Entrance fee is set at $85 and $75 to Docomo subscribers and it covers the greens fee, refreshments during play, and access into the awards banquet. This year's tournament will have competitions in the Championship, A, B, C, Seniors and Ladies.

The tournament will utilize an individual modified Calloway scoring format with the Top 3 low net score finishers of each flight getting cash prizes.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC), which is an organization focused on increasing awareness and supporting tourism-related programs for students of the CNMI Public School System.

Entry forms can be obtained at Docomo's main office along Middle Road in Gualo Rai and the Kingfisher Golf Links. Entrants must pay in cash; fees are being accepted at the Gualo Rai location.

This year's Docomo Classic is also supported by Delta Airlines, DFS Saipan Ltd, First Hawaiian Bank, Mobil, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, while Fiesta Resort, Delta Air Lines, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Islands Club, Dickerson & Quinn, Kautz Glass, and DataDot Micronesia.

For more information, contact 483-CARE (2273).

SWEEPS

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only three-game win in the women's B singles after slipping past Windy Fernandez. Curate survived the closely fought first game, 22-20, but missed a sweep when Fernandez recovered in the second set with a 21-18 triumph. The deciding third set was another neck-and-neck battle with Curate again pulling off a 22-20 victory.

Duplicating Curate's feat was Chris Hilario, who repulsed the favored Oh Im Bog in the men's B singles Hilario dropped the opening game, 10-21, but got his rhythm in the last two games, 21-14, 21-18, to steal the win.

The two other games in the men's B singles were won via sweeps with Wowie Abuel and Jexler Caranto easing past their respective foes. Abuel was was paired against Aries Cordero and notched a 21-11, 21-14 victory, while Caranto downed John Revilla, 21-10, 21-8.

In the C level, four matches were played and three were decided after only two games. Julie Lee swept Diane Francisco in the women's singles, 21-17, 21-17, while Rose Lazaro defeated Lani Santos, 21-14, 21-17.

In the men's C doubles, Jordan Pangilinan teamed up with Celso Agui in edging Rommel Bartolome and Ramir Belialba in a three-set game. Pangilinan and Agui drew first blood, 21-19, but failed to keep their momentum in the tight second game, which Bartolome and Belialba survived, 22-20. Agui and Pangilinan then bounced back in the third set, 21-17, for their debut win.

Bartolome and Belialba went on to split their two games in the opening day after sweeping Kim Young Suk and Pzao Zhung Xun in the late night match, 21-13, 21-16.

Action in the Shirley's badminton tournament will continue this weekend with players in the singles and doubles categories battling for the four playoff berths.

HOCOG

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Kingfisher last Saturday with a better score of 72.

Nine players battled for this month's Ace with John Guerrero and Dr. Larry Hocog making it to the Top 5. Guerrero got off to a strong start with his 75 in the first round, but slowed down in last Sunday's contest with his 84 for a combined score of 159. Dr. Larry Hocog also played a good game in the first round, carding an 83 before hitting an 86 in last weekend's final round for a 169 total.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	75	54	.581	—
Baltimore	71	57	.555	3½
Tampa Bay	70	59	.543	5
Boston	62	68	.477	13½
Toronto	57	71	.445	17½

Central Division

Chicago	71	57	.555	—
Detroit	69	59	.539	2
Kansas City	57	71	.445	14
Cleveland	55	74	.426	16½
Minnesota	52	77	.403	19½

West Division

Texas	77	52	.597	—
Oakland	71	57	.555	5½
Los Angeles	67	62	.519	10
Seattle	63	67	.485	14½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	77	51	.602	—
Atlanta	74	56	.569	4
Philadelphia	61	68	.473	16½
New York	60	69	.465	17½
Miami	59	71	.454	19

Central Division

Cincinnati	79	52	.603	—
St. Louis	71	58	.550	7
Pittsburgh	69	60	.535	9
Milwaukee	61	67	.477	16½
Chicago	49	79	.383	28½
Houston	40	89	.310	38

West Division

San Francisco	72	57	.558	—
Los Angeles	69	61	.531	3½
Arizona	64	66	.492	8½
San Diego	60	71	.458	13
Colorado	53	75	.414	18½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan Tribune
Sports

XTERRA Japan: Mieko's last race for CNMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mieko Carey, center, poses with Will Kelsay and Shonny Vanlandingham before the start of last Saturday's XTERRA Japan in Marunuma.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2012 XTERRA Japan was Mieko Carey's farewell race under the CNMI colors.

Carey in an email to *Saipan Tribune* said she will be moving to Guam next month after placing second to U.S. pro Shonny Vanlandingham in last Saturday's XTERRA Japan Championships held in Marunuma.

"It's been a pleasure and honor to race for Saipan, for the CNMI. I am always proud to say in every race I join that I am from Saipan. Unfortunately, I am moving to Guam next month," Carey said.

"The XTERRA Japan was my last race for Saipan and I thanked all the people who supported me in the past 8 years," she added.

The 34-year-old's last race for the CNMI was an eventful one and Carey could not ask for a more fitting ending.

"My XTERRA Japan started with a crazy bear story. I still felt it was all a dream," said Carey, who was talking of a bear attack on her riding partner Taeyoong Kim.

Carey said she and Kim had a pre-course ride four days before the race started and they saw a black bear and her cubs along the bike course in the Nikko National Forest. Fortunately for Carey she was

See XTERRA on Page 23

Sweeps galore in opening of Shirley's tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sweep was the theme in the opening of the 2012 Shirley's Coffee Shop Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament, as 10 of the 13 matches played last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai were decided only after two games.

In the lone women's A game, Angie Ito made short work of Malou Malasarte to open her title bid with a bang. Though she won after only two games, Ito met a little competition in the first game before pulling off a 21-19 victory. Then in the second set, Ito had cruise control, nailing a 21-12 win for the sweep.

In the women's B singles, two of the three matches ended shortly with Cristy Villaflor and Toshiko Obata sweeping their respective foes.

Villaflor defeated Marylyn Montano in the first game by five points, 21-16, and played even better in the second game, posting a 21-13 triumph. Obata, on the other hand, gave up no more than 8 points in each game to coast to a 21-8, 21-8 win over Loida Ito.

Elna Curate recorded the

See SWEEPS on Page 23

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Chris Hilario, seen here returning a shot during an earlier competition this year, won his opening match in the men's B singles of the Shirley's tournament last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

65 and counting for Docomo Golf Classic

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Over 65 golfers have already registered for the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic that will be held this Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Organizers are hoping to surmount last year's turnout of 99 and interested participants have until 11am today to register.

Last year's competition ended with J.J. Atalig leading the winners list after topping the Championship Flight. Also ruling their respective fields in the 2011 edition of the fundraising tournament were A Flight's Ed Cho, B Flight's Lawrence Camacho Jr., C Flight's John D.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Airlines' Chris Concepcion, left, and Esther Sound, fourth left, lead the presentation of a roundtrip ticket prize for Docomo Pacific's 3rd Annual Golf Classic Tournament to Docomo Pacific officials and employees.

Hocog wins AMIGO August Ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Diding Hocog took the AMIGO Golf Club's August Ace of the Month title after last Sunday's tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Hocog

Hocog claimed this month's honors, as she earned a net score of 136 in two tournaments. She led in the first competition held on Aug. 12, also at Kingfisher, recording a net 69. The August Ace winner shot a 52 on the first nine holes and lit up the back nine with an impressive 41 for a gross tally of 93.

Hocog then came into last Sunday's final round with confidence and remained consistent on the greens to punch her ticket into the AMIGO's season-ending Ace of Aces tournament. She improved her raw score by two strokes with her 91, which worked into a 67 net score.

The August Ace winner won by 7 strokes against runner-up Frank Sablan. Rounding out the Top 3 was Joe Tudela. Sablan had a 71 and 72 in the first and second round, respectively, for a 143 total, while Tudela was two shots back with his 145. Tudela tallied a net 73 in the first round and returned to

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